



Idaho Forest Action Plan

Part Two: Resource Strategy



Priority Landscape
Areas, Goals, Strategies
& Implementation

July
2020



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Acknowledgments

We greatly appreciate the support and assistance provided by the Idaho Lands Resource Coordination Council (ILRCC) who met regularly to inform, discuss, and guide this process; the members of the Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Strategy Core Team who rolled up their sleeves and helped identify goals and strategies; and the many folks who gave us helpful and constructive comments.

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Introduction

Background and Purpose

Developed collaboratively, first in 2010 and revised in 2015, with many different agencies and organizations, Idaho’s Forest Action Plan – herein referred to as the Forest Action Plan or FAP – is a key element in the redesign of the USDA Forest Service’s State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Branch; a requirement within the 2008 Farm Bill for states receiving funding through the US Forest Service for S&PF programs. The US Forest Service provides funding and other support to states for programs to improve the health, productivity, benefits, and extent of state, private, and urban forests. Programs supported by this funding—including Forest Health, State Fire Assistance, Rural Fire Capacity, Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Conservation Education, and Forest Legacy—are referred to as S&PF Programs. The FAP’s purpose is to ensure that federal and state resources focus on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

A broad group of stakeholders identified threats to and benefits from forest resources that form the foundation of the Assessment. The assessment provides a geospatial analysis of conditions and trends for all forested lands in Idaho. Using the Assessment and local/regional factors, Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) in urban and rural forested landscapes were delineated. The PLAs are used by Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) as the areas where S&PF programs are focused.

This FAP Strategy document provides broad strategies to protect, restore and enhance forest resources in priority landscapes by addressing the issues identified in the assessment. A primary purpose of the Strategy document is to guide S&PF investments in Idaho to ensure that resources are focused on landscape areas with the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities and achieve measurable outcomes.

A parallel purpose is to help landowners and land managers in Idaho better recognize and support opportunities where working together and leveraging limited resources can address multiple critical issues of statewide importance in the areas where doing so will have the greatest impact. Stakeholders can use this plan to support requests and proposals for resources necessary to implement strategies and to develop local and statewide collaborative frameworks.

It is important to recognize that the FAP does not replace existing strategic or management plans for any agency, organization or individual, nor is it implied that any lands not included in a Priority Landscape Area (PLA) or the listed strategies are unimportant. The plan contains large-scale strategies not intended to identify all the issues or actions any land manager may feel are most important on the lands they manage. Rather, they identify opportunities for willing partners to align their plans, leverage resources, and work together within the PLAs and per the strategies to gain the greatest value from limited resources in areas that contain multiple high-priority issues of statewide importance.

Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)

In late 2011, the three program-specific groups advisory to the Idaho Department of Lands¹ were dissolved, and the ILRCC was created as a single S&PF advisory group, integrating all S&PF programs and focusing on addressing the critical issues identified in the FAP. This change was per the recommendation

¹ Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council, Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee, and Idaho National Fire Plan Working Group

of an Oversight Group, comprised of 2-3 members of each of the three advisory groups and IDL staff, leading to the implementation of a key strategy with the 2010 document.

Prior to making this change, IDL consulted with and received approval from USDA Forest Service S&PF leadership in Regions 1 and 4 as well as the Washington Office. ILRCC will meet legal requirements outlined in the Cooperative Forestry Act, the most current Farm Bill, and S&PF Program requirements. This structure will help Idaho achieve the principles of S&PF Redesign; addressing Idaho's most critical forestry related issues through an integrated suite of S&PF programs at a scale where significant positive changes are realized. A white paper describing the genesis of the IRLCC and its function is located in Appendix F, starting on [page 79](#).

Forest Action Plan: Resource Assessment

The Idaho Resource Assessment – a geospatial analysis – identifies seven main issues affecting Idaho forestlands (threats and potential benefits). Threats to forests include wildfire, forest health decline, and development pressure. Potential benefits include sustainable wood-based forest resource markets, water quality & quantity, air quality, and wildlife habitat & biodiversity. Statewide data and local knowledge identified areas in Idaho where these threats and benefits pointed to the highest need for investment and work. These areas of multiple high priority concerns and potential benefits are designated as PLAs and include urban, rural, and wildland urban-interface (WUI) lands.

Note that the assessment utilized the best available *statewide* data. Because the assessment is statewide in scale, it does not identify every area in which an issue may exist. Local geospatial data may present a different characterization of the issues.

A full Idaho FAP Resource Assessment report—including detailed descriptions of each issue, data used, models used for each issue, issue maps, a description of the final methodology and assessment maps, and the maps developed for each of the sub-issues and issues—can be found on the Idaho FAP website at <https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-action-plan/>.

Stakeholders can also use the individual issue maps from the assessment to identify where a particular issue or issues are highest priority, and to inform and support specific strategies, resources or actions necessary to address them.

Forest Action Plan: Resource Strategy

The FAP Resource Strategy is a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated strategy for investing state, federal, and leveraged partner resources. It addresses the issues and PLAs identified in the Resource Assessment. The Idaho FAP is statewide in scope. It is not a site-specific plan.

The Idaho FAP will help provide focus to landowners, agencies, collaborative groups, and partnership efforts in identifying projects and activities to reduce threats to and increase the benefits from Idaho's forestlands. From “Main Street to mountaintop”, focusing work in the priority areas allows leveraging of funds and coordination across ownerships as a highly effective way to address the most critical forest resource issues in Idaho at a scale where significant, positive changes can be realized.

Process

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) led the effort to develop a comprehensive resource assessment and accompanying FAP through a collaborative process involving representatives from federal and state agencies, counties, non-governmental organizations, S&PF program advisory groups, tribes, interest groups, and private citizens. A core team of the ILRCC members and technical experts convened to review and update the Assessment. The Assessment was presented to the full committee (ILRCC) for consideration where recommendations were given and incorporated where appropriate. The Goals and

Strategies from the 2015 revision were also reviewed by ILRCC and updates were made based on feedback and changes to the Assessment.

It is imperative to recognize that the FAP is an iterative document and a dynamic process. Resources and priorities evolve as new information becomes available and conditions in Idaho's forests change. This document will be updated periodically to reflect adjustments and remain relevant and useful, and full FAP updates, including the assessment and strategy development, will be completed at ten-year intervals.

Summary of changes in the May 2012 revision

- The State Assessment of Forest Resources and the Statewide Forest Resource Strategy are now collectively called the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP). This name change is reflected throughout both documents.
- The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC)—an advisory group representing all Idaho S&PF program areas—replaces the three-program specific advisory groups. Discussion is found on [page 26](#) and in [Appendix F: 79-81](#).
- The Idaho Forest Action Plan replaces the Forest Legacy Program's original Assessment of Need—last updated in 2007. This change is discussed on [page 14](#), and in [Appendix G: 82-85](#). The 15 Priority Landscape Areas identified in this Forest Action Plan replace the original six Legacy Areas from the Idaho's September 2002 Assessment of Need. A comparison of Legacy eligible areas between the original Assessment of Need and the Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Areas is included on [pages 86 and 87](#).
- Additional definitions added to the glossary ([Appendix A](#))

Summary of changes in the September 2015 revision

- The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council reviewed the Forest Action Plan and suggested additions and modifications that are incorporated herein. The Council also guided creation of the Report on Accomplishments (see last bullet below)
- The National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy is incorporated into this revision as an integral component of the Forest Action Plan. See [pages 27 and 28](#), and [Appendix H on page 88](#).
- A Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area (SLA) has been added to reflect increasingly important issues in this ecosystem, especially juniper encroachment and invasion of non-native annual grasses that increase wildfire risk and threaten habitat for more than 350 species of plants and animals. One key species, the greater sage-grouse, is in danger of being listed as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act. Introduction of the SLA starts on [page 17](#), and further information and management strategies begin on [page 73](#).
- Added an addendum 1 to FAP called the **Report on Accomplishments 2008-2015**. This standalone document highlights accomplishments based on the strategies within this Plan, summarizes statewide, multi-state, and Priority Landscape Area projects, and links these to the National Priorities listed in the 2008 Farm Bill. IDL began implementing FAP strategies before the plan was finalized and is the reason the Accomplishment Report covers project work starting in 2008.

Summary of Changes in the June 2020 update

- Changes were made in the assessment modeling (Forest Economics, Wildfire, Forest Health and Wildlife), that led to changes in the Strategies and Goals. Specifically, recreation data was not available at a statewide scale so the impact of recreation is now captured in narrative form. Fire modeling was simplified to probability of damage, while Forest Health incorporated additional data about current and future insect threats not previously available and used a statewide climate change model to replace the previously used species change modeling. For Wildlife the State Wildlife Action Plan was completely redone by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, which provided a more robust set of data than was used in the forest assessment modeling.
- Shared Stewardship is a national initiative intended to increase the pace and scale of forest management throughout the country. As part the initiative a modeling exercise was completed in Idaho by USFS researchers. This modeling and that completed within the Forest Action Plan Assessment were used to identify two priority landscapes. Additional details about Idaho’s Shared Stewardship can be found in [Appendix I](#).
- The 2015 chapter order was changed for the 2020 revision, providing for a better flow of the document. The number of goals was reduced from six to five because of redundant goal descriptions. Additionally, the specific issue and strategy details associated with each PLA were removed in chapter 5 in favor of using the tables now found at the end of chapter 3. All changes were approved by ILRCC after presenting the changes for consideration and discussion.
- Due to policy changes within the Forest Service, Focal Areas had to be identified where the Forest Stewardship Program would focus the expenditure of federal grant funds. Additional details about the process used to identify those areas can be found in [Appendix J](#).

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Chapter 1 – State and Private Forestry Programs

Introduction

Idaho’s state and private forests are served by a suite of programs that foster stewardship and sustainability. Encompassing nearly a quarter of the vast landscape of Idaho’s forests, state and private lands provide public benefits such as clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and a majority of the state’s wood supply.

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Branch of the U.S. Forest Service provides funding and other assistance to states to help ensure that forest landowners have the best technical, educational, and financial assistance available to help them achieve their objectives in an environmentally beneficial manner. Federal investment leverages the capacity of state forestry agencies and their partners to manage state and private lands that produce ecological, social and economic benefits for all of us. S&PF reaches across the boundaries of national forests to states, tribes, communities and non-industrial private landowners. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue when announcing the Shared Stewardship initiative, said, “To truly protect our forests and communities, we must increase the number and size of projects across larger landscapes...share decision making authority and responsibility with state partners...to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration.”



Regardless of ownership, forests across the country are experiencing significant challenges to ecosystem health: tree mortality is on the rise due to insects, disease and invasive pests; wildfires continue to increase in size and intensity; ecosystems struggle to adapt to climate change disturbances; and forests are being permanently converted to non-forest uses. People are also impacted as wood-based local economies suffer, declining forest health impacts recreation and tourism, and the benefits forests provide to society are eroded. The Strategy document addresses both the ecological and social issues surrounding forestry.

The 2008 Farm Bill codified the main components of Redesign into law by amending the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. The three national Priorities—Conserve Working Forest Landscapes, Protect Forests from Harm, and Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests—are now set in law as national priorities, and the Statewide Assessments and Strategies are required and central for S&PF program delivery at the state level.²

In Idaho, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is the agency that administers the S&PF programs. These include Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education, State Fire Assistance, and Rural Fire Capacity. This Strategies document fulfills the requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill and will guide the programs through 2030. A short description of each S&PF program in Idaho follows.

State and Private Forestry Programs

Forest Stewardship Program

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Program is to promote the long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forestlands by assisting landowners in more actively managing their forest and related resources. In Idaho, the IDL administers this program collaboratively with state and private

² USDA Forest Service. 2010. “State and Private Forestry Redesign”. Washington, D.C. Available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/state-private-forestry>

partners. The Idaho Forest Stewardship Program provides assistance to owners of forests where good stewardship, including agroforestry, will enhance and sustain the long-term productivity of multiple forest resources. Special attention is given to landowners in the early stages of managing their land using multi-resource stewardship principles. The program provides landowners with the professional planning and technical assistance they need to keep their land in a productive and healthy condition. The Idaho Forest Stewardship Program promotes forest landowner participation in the development of Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Forest Conservation Activity Plans, and American Tree Farm System Management Plans. The IDL foresters assist landowners with the development of these management plans; an important first step in practicing sound silviculture. The planning assistance offered through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program also provides landowners with enhanced access to other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding assistance, conservation programs, and forest certification programs. Within Idaho's Forest Stewardship Program, the IDL in cooperation with other state partners, delivers multiple in-the field educational sessions for landowners and land managers, focusing on issues, problems and opportunities, and the appropriate stewardship activities to address these.

Using a ten-year planning horizon based on the Forest Action Plan (FAP), the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program relies on the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) to act in an advisory capacity to assist in proper delivery of assistance and educational programs. This committee serves as the principal advisory group for stewardship program efforts.

Forest Health Program

The IDL Forest Health program provides technical assistance to State forest managers, Non-industrial Private Forestland (NIPF) owners who own approximately 2 million acres of forestland, and to the Forest Industry, who own 1 million acres of commercial forestlands. The Forest Health program helps protect and preserve forest resources and watersheds from forest insect and disease with early detection and rapid response. Doing so helps to ensure the production and stability of forests, forest industry, forest recreation values, and provides protection for the supply of wood and wood products on a local, state, regional, and national basis. When outbreaks occur, the Forest Health Program will lead control efforts as needed and as appropriate. Whenever possible, the IDL will work cooperatively with private forest owners, state and federal partners.

To achieve these mandates, the principal activities of the Forest Health Program are prevention, detection, evaluation, control, and, as necessary, eradication of forest insect and disease outbreaks. Assistance may be technical, educational, and/or financial. The program works across landscapes, from rural to urban forest settings. Forest health is key to maintaining forests that are resilient to fire and changes in climate as these forests protect and enhance wildlife habitat, provide economic benefits, and positively contribute to human health. The FAP identifies current forest health threats and will guide the Forest Health Program efforts for the next ten years. The program will also remain flexible in order to respond to new insect and disease outbreaks as they occur.

Urban & Community Forestry Program

Urban forests are dynamic ecosystems that provide needed environmental services by cleaning air and water, controlling stormwater, and conserving energy. These ecosystems add form, structure, beauty, and breathing room to urban design. They also reduce noise, separate incompatible uses, provide places to recreate, strengthen social cohesion, leverage community revitalization, and add tremendous economic value to our communities. The rate of Idaho's urban population growth is among the highest in the nation, signaling an increase in the impact that comes with this growth, and the opportunity to address these issues in part by preserving, enhancing and managing tree canopy.

The Urban and Community Forestry Program focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources and provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to local governments, organizations, and others to maximize the value, function, and health of the urban forest ecosystem. Through these efforts, the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable and economically vibrant urban environments across Idaho.

Using a ten-year planning horizon based on the FAP, the Urban and Community Forestry Program relies on the ILRCC to act in an advisory capacity to assist in proper delivery of assistance and educational programs. This committee serves as the principal advisory group for urban and community forestry efforts.

Conservation Education Program

The Conservation Education program helps people of all ages understand and appreciate Idaho's natural resources and learn how to conserve those resources for future generations. Through structured educational experiences and activities targeting a range of age groups and populations, the Conservation Education program enables people to realize how natural resources and ecosystems affect each other and how resources can be used wisely.

Through the Conservation Education program, people develop the critical thinking skills they need to understand the complexities of ecological problems. The Program also encourages people to act on their own to conserve natural resources and to use them in a responsible manner by making informed decisions.

State Fire Assistance (National Fire Capacity & Hazard Fuels)

The State of Idaho has 12,592,000 acres of state and private land that qualify for protection under the State Fire Assistance Program of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. Of these acres, ~6.4 million receive protection by either State or federal agencies. The IDL uses State Fire Assistance funds to hire, train, and equip interagency firefighters, a resource that can be ordered and used by any state, federal, or local unit.

Idaho developed a formal structure and strategy to implement the National Fire Plan (NFP) component of the State Fire Assistance Program in 2001. With the role-out of the Cohesive Strategy in 2009, the need to further collaborate and coordinate was highlighted in the Three National Goals: Fire-Adapted Communities; Fire Resilient Landscapes, Safe and Effective Response. To address these tenants, the Idaho Department of Lands administers the NFP through local cooperators to assist landowners in the management of vegetation to reduce wildfire risk and education programs to empower people with information.

All 44 counties in Idaho have County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) which identify projects to reduce risk, expand education and increase response capacity. The maintenance of the CWPPs is done locally by the County Wildfire Working Groups (CWWG), which are made up of county emergency managers and local, state and federal partners. Through NFP grants most Idaho counties have been able to complete projects listed in their CWPP that emphasize fire prevention and education, hazardous fuels reduction, assistance to firefighters, and woody biomass utilization. Additionally, the State Fire Assistance Program relies on the ILRCC to act in an advisory capacity to assist in proper delivery of assistance and educational programs.

State Fire Assistance activities focus on areas identified in both the FAP and CWPPs as high priority, further guided by strategies within this document.

Rural Fire Capacity

Funding through the Rural Fire Capacity Program supports fire management training and equipment for Volunteer Fire Departments throughout Idaho. The Fire Departments receiving funding service a community or other population area(s) of less than 10,000 people.

Priority is given to fire management training. With safety being the number one priority in fighting wildland fire, personnel require adequate training in not only structure, but also wildland fire control techniques. Funds are also used to equip fire districts with priority personal protective safety equipment and gear.

Forest Legacy Program

The Forest Legacy Program—a federal program in partnership with states—supports state efforts to protect environmentally important forestlands. The Idaho Forest Legacy Program is funded through a percentage of federal receipts from oil and gas drilling on the outer continental shelf, to purchase conservation easements on private lands that might otherwise be developed and converted to non-forest uses. The Idaho Forest Legacy Program is a voluntary program designed to protect forests and the economic and ecological benefits they provide. Those landowners wishing to participate in the program are provided with tools and the potential to receive funding to assure their forestland remains a working forest in perpetuity. The Idaho Forest Legacy Program conservation easements are legally binding agreements that transfer a negotiated set of property rights from the landowner to the State of Idaho without removing that property from private ownership. In general, the Idaho Forest Legacy Program conservation easements restrict development and mineral extraction, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values such as water, cultural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat.

The FAP replaces the original Forest Legacy Program’s Assessment of Need

The Idaho Forest Legacy Program completed a Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) in 2002 (updated in 2010 and again in 2020). The AON, a requirement for states participating in the Program, is a detailed analysis of the issues pertinent to the Program and prioritizes areas within the state for Forest Legacy Program funding. The Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR)—a comprehensive review of the threats and benefits that affect Idaho forests—identified priority areas for forest conservation and management. The FAP addresses the criteria necessary to update and replace the original AON, including incorporating comments and input from many organizations, agencies, and members of the public.

Beginning in 2012, Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program, with oversight from the ILRCC, began using the FAP as Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program AON to guide implementation of the program. A Forest Legacy subcommittee of the ILRCC consisting of ILRCC members, agency representatives, and other interested parties, performs evaluation and scoring of project applications. [Appendix G \(page 82-85\)](#) provides additional information detailing Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program including goals and objectives, project eligibility criteria, project evaluation and prioritization, and a comparison of prior and current Forest Legacy eligible areas.

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Chapter 2 – The Forest Action Plan and Priority Landscape Areas

Introduction

Using the 2020 updated assessment, priority landscapes were identified throughout Idaho in areas where management actions that address benefits and risks are most likely to have a higher return on investment value. The identified Priority Landscape Areas (PLA) will be the primary focus of the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Programs as well as to serve partner’s focal efforts to achieve measurable outcomes within Idaho’s forests and associated ecosystems.

It is important to recognize that, because the scale is large and the purpose of the Forest Action Plan (FAP) is to capture priority areas statewide, locally significant areas or issues may not be explicitly captured. These areas or issues are important to address and encourage the use of the concepts, principles and practices found within the FAP.

Key Issues (Threats and Benefits) Identified in SAFR

The issues identified in the Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources (SAFR) are shown in diagram form on [page 21](#). More detailed information on the data used and the models used for each issue, sub-issue, and the overall assessment are described in the document titled [Idaho Forest Action Plan, Part One: Resource Assessment](#).

Issue: Relative Threat to Communities and Ecosystems from Wildland Fire

Uncharacteristic wildland fire is defined as an increase in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control compared to that which occurred prior to European settlement. The threat of wildfires has increased due to changes in climate, additional mortality from insects and disease, increasing human population across landscapes (ignition sources and more development at risk), fuel accumulation from decades of aggressive fire suppression, and forest management practices. The purpose of this issue is to identify damage probability from wildland fire to resources and infrastructure in Idaho.

Issue: Relative Threats to Forest Health

Forests and urban tree canopies face many different kinds of threats. The purpose of analyzing this issue is to identify the most significant statewide biological threats. These include forest insects and diseases that result in tree mortality, noxious terrestrial weed species that can compromise the health and composition of forest stands, and climate change, which may modify current ranges of forest species, adding additional stresses to forests. Not only do stresses from these factors damage forests, they have an ecological, social, and economic impact as well. They affect markets, recreation, and wildlife habitat, and can exacerbate uncharacteristic wildfire. The critical areas identified for this issue represent where hazards or problems currently exist or are likely to exist in the near future, and where management activities can be used to minimize the hazards or threats. Other issues within the assessment address areas where forests and tree canopy can help mitigate the causes of some of these threats.

Issue: Relative Potential Loss of, or Damage to Canopy from Development Pressure

The intent of this issue is to identify areas at greatest risk of conversion from forestland to other uses, specifically development. Often, forested areas are highly desirable for home sites or new subdivisions. With this conversion comes a loss of productive forests, increased wildfire risk to property as more homes are “in the woods,” and pressure to reduce or eliminate management on

adjacent lands. Also important are those areas that may be converted from one housing density to a significantly higher density as this may also lead to loss of canopy and the benefits it provides.

Additionally, recreation pressure, specifically that of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) used on forests, increases as populations expand. However, this was not modeled due to a lack of statewide available data. It is acknowledged that this is a critical element of consideration as pressure from OHV use in undesignated areas can lead to degradation of forested areas such as increased erosion, user conflicts, spread of invasive species, damage to cultural sites, disturbance to wildlife, destruction of wildlife habitat, and risks to public safety.

While OHV use in undesignated areas is a threat, it should be emphasized that forests provide recreational value for many uses, including OHVs. Managing the areas where impact or potential impact on forests is greatest, creating and maintaining designated OHV use areas, and providing education to OHV users, will help alleviate this threat.

Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Sustainable Forest-Based Wood Products Markets

The purpose of this issue is to identify the forested areas most beneficial to existing and planned mills and biomass-utilization facilities. In many areas of the state, communities are economically and culturally dependent upon forestlands. The benefits and products of forestlands include timber, biomass, recreation, hunting and fishing, and ecosystem services. When markets and mills shut down, incentives to manage forests are significantly diminished, leading to an increase in forest insect and disease infestations, fire risk, and a decline in overall forest health.

Identified in the assessment are those areas within established distances from existing mills and existing or planned biomass utilization facilities—both within and outside of the state—where treatments can help support the wood products industry.

Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Water Quality and Quantity from Forests and Canopy

The purpose of this issue is to identify the areas where forests can have the greatest benefit for water quality and quantity. Rural forests and urban tree canopy offer tremendous value toward good water quality, aquifer recharge, stormwater mitigation and erosion control. Water is one of the most critical resources in the West, especially important for fish, wildlife, and humans. Forest canopy shades and cools streams, which is important for healthy fish habitat. Leaves of trees intercept rainfall, lowering the erosive impact of rain on soil. Root systems help break up compacted ground while stabilizing soil, which leads to greater groundwater recharge, reduced runoff and associated contaminant loads from snowmelt and rainwater, and less erosion. This issue focuses forest management efforts on areas in greatest need of improved water quality and quantity in both rural and urban environments.

Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Air Quality from Forests and Canopy

The purpose of this issue is to identify the areas where an increase in and management of forests and tree canopy can have the greatest benefit to air quality. Forests have both a positive and negative impact on air quality. Forest canopies absorb and filter particulates, greenhouse gases, and pollutants out of the air, improving air quality while sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen. However, wildfires, especially large uncharacteristic ones, contribute a great deal of particulates (from smoke) and carbon into the air. Communities within the airshed of these fires suffer reduced air quality and commensurate health impacts.

Since temperature is a catalyst for the production of volatile organic compounds (VOC)—the components of smog—the cooling effect of tree canopy in urban areas can lower VOC production. Urban tree canopy can also lower energy consumption through the shading and cooling of buildings

resulting in the reduction of energy. When this energy is produced from fossil fuels, less consumption means less production and a corresponding reduction of emissions at the source.

Issue: Relative Potential Benefit to Wildlife and Biodiversity

This issue identifies the areas of greatest conservation value for wildlife habitat and plant and animal biodiversity, and where management can enhance these values. Areas where forests play a key role in wildlife critical habitat and range; threatened, endangered, and rare fish and wildlife habitat; and ecologically important plant communities, are highlighted. Within the context of the FAP, projects proposed within areas of overall high priority should consider activities that will enhance the habitat of the plant, fish, and wildlife species listed within those areas.

Development of Priority Landscape Areas

Upon completion of the resource assessment, the Idaho Department of Lands' (IDL) Technical Team reviewed the model values produced for sub-watersheds along with geographic, ecological, social, and other local and regional considerations. Using this process, they identified PLAs as a way to break the state into smaller, local areas where strategies would most effectively address identified threats and potential benefits and provide a framework for multiple complimentary efforts (See maps on [pages 18-20](#)). The assessment process was not able to capture all issues across Idaho, so the 2020 draft PLAs were presented to the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) for discussion and consideration. Adjustments were made to PLAs based on the ILRCC member's advice, expertise, and experience.

The designation of the PLAs should not be viewed as hard lines across Idaho's landscapes; rather they are "fuzzy" because natural and human systems often impact or interact with areas not found within the PLA delineations. Additionally, PLA boundaries reflect current and modeled future conditions but are not able to capture future opportunities that may weigh into a particular watershed or landscape being included within a PLA. With this in mind, the PLAs will be regularly reviewed by the IDL and the ILRCC to ensure they are appropriately aligned with current and emerging issues.

Some of Idaho's PLAs fall outside of the state border into neighboring states because an issue or issues within the PLAs warranted expansion of the particular PLA to capture a more meaningful scale of the issue(s). Having PLAs that go beyond the Idaho border provides opportunities to align, coordinate, and collaborate with neighboring states on projects and management actions to protect, conserve, and enhance forest resources at ecological, economic, and socially appropriate scales.

Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area

Sage-Steppe is the most widespread ecosystem type in the United States covering 111 million acres of the arid Intermountain West. It supports abundant wildlife and other economically important natural resources. In Idaho, it covers an area across southern Idaho from the Snake River Plain to the Nevada border. Vegetation is comprised primarily of grasses and shrubs, such as sagebrush, and Pinion and Juniper woodlands.

Sage-Steppe is also one of the most imperiled ecosystems in the United States. 150 years of fire exclusion and domestic livestock grazing have dramatically altered this landscape including significant expansion of native juniper into the ecosystem. Since the late 1800s, occurrence of western juniper in these areas has grown ten-fold, crowding out sagebrush and native grasses that cannot survive under a closed canopy. The result is fragmented and degraded native wildlife habitat for species such as the greater sage-grouse, currently in danger of being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Wildfires fueled by juniper burn at greater intensities, decreasing understory vegetation, increasing soil erosion, and facilitating spread of invasive plants such as cheatgrass and medusahead rye. These non-native annual plants further alter the fire regime as they create a continuous fuel bed in which repeated

wildfires cause wholesale loss of the sagebrush component in the landscape. In some areas, fire occurrence has gone from once every 60 to 100 years, to once every 3 to 5 years.

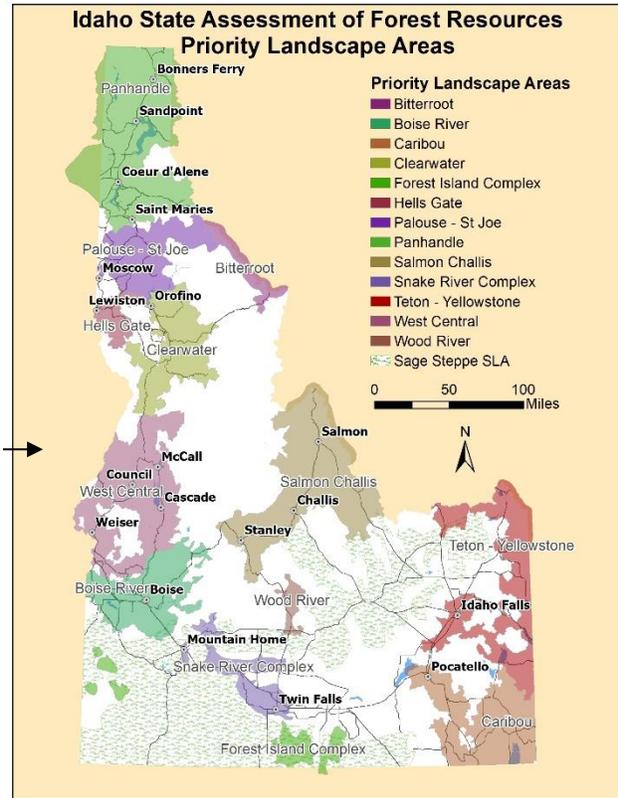
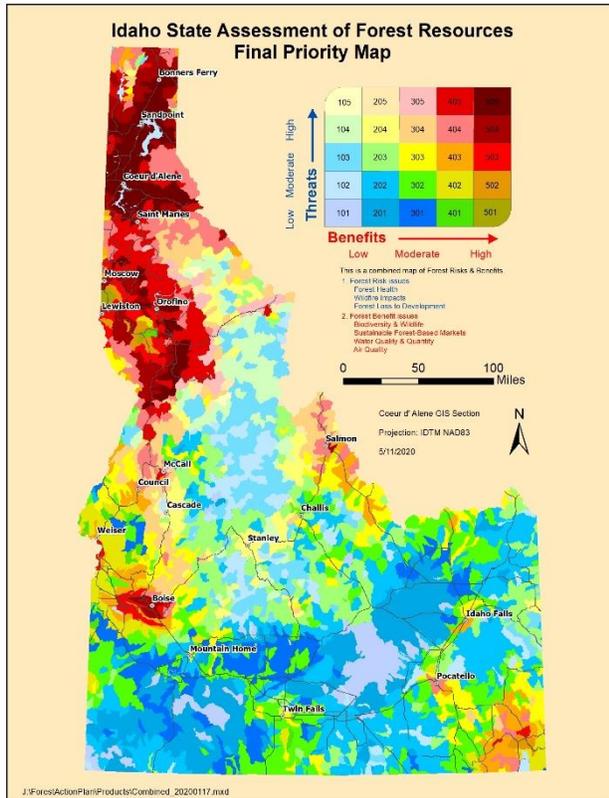
Agencies and private landowners within the Sage-Steppe are engaged in land management activities to restore native ecosystems. Doing so provides forest-based markets biomass to utilize; protects and preserves key habitat for more than 350 species of plants and wildlife; and increases the value and resiliency of landscapes for grazing livestock.

Stakeholders guiding development of Idaho's 2010 FAP made a conscious decision early on to only include areas where conditions supported the growth of trees and forests, defined as receiving more than 10" of rainfall per year (an amount felt necessary to support growth of commercial forests). However, many stakeholders felt land management issues in the sage steppe, especially as they affect wildlife, water, air quality, and wildfires, warranted inclusion in the FAP.

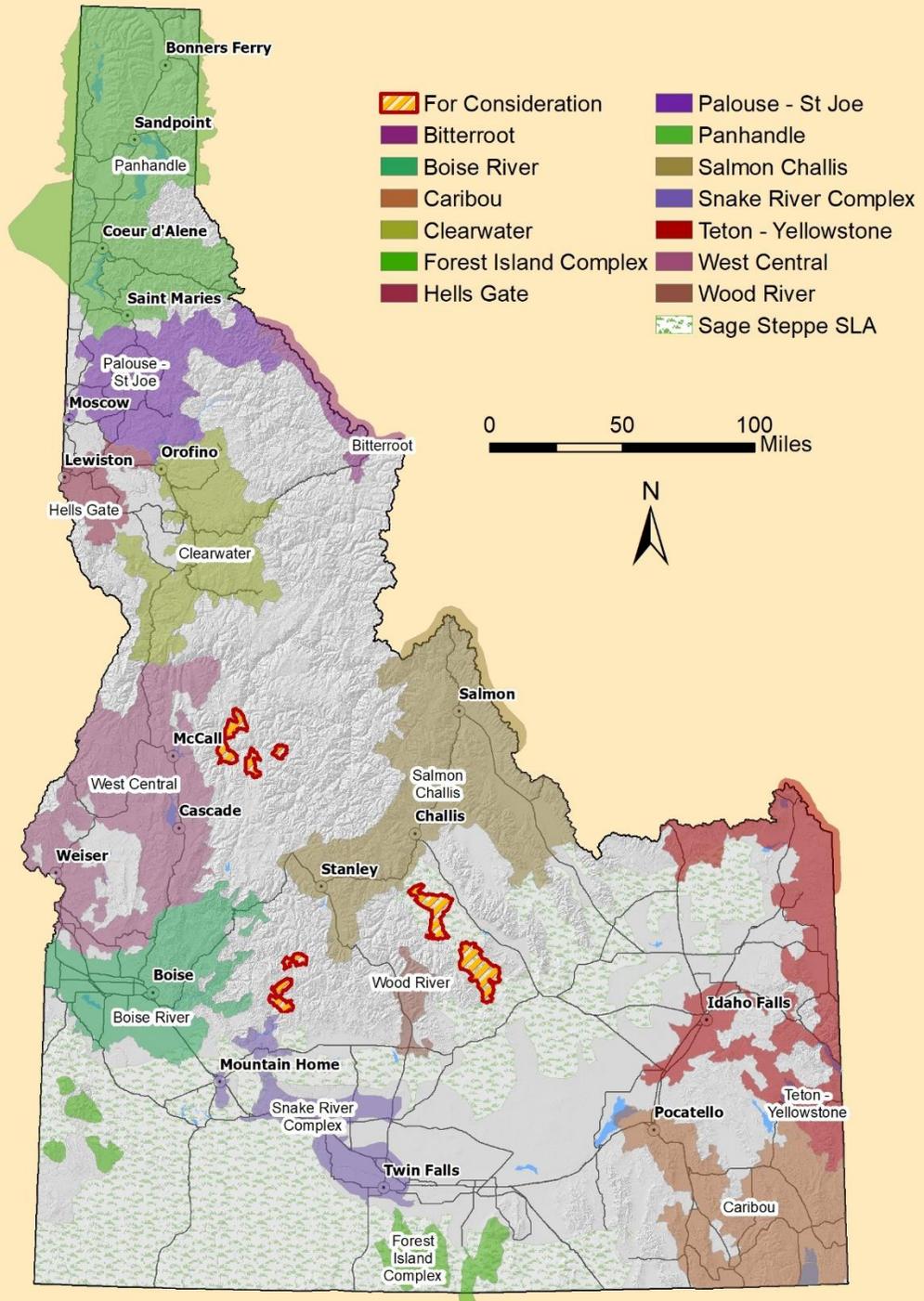
Since completion of Idaho's 2010 FAP, these issues have gained greater attention, and the restoration of Sage-Steppe areas to reduce wildfire risk is now a national priority. After extensive discussion during the ILRCC's summer 2015 meeting, Council members voted to include Idaho's Sage-Steppe areas in the 2015 FAP Revision as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) rather than a PLA.

The SLA boundaries include the greater sage-grouse habitat designated as "core" and "important," and adjacent areas with significant departure from historic fire condition regimes and with very high populations of invasive annual grasses. By including these lands, the intent is not to divert resources from management activities within PLAs. Rather, it is to support management in the Sage-Steppe SLA by forest and land management agencies and organizations—including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), other state agencies, and the Governor's Alternative for the Management of Greater Sage-Grouse—as part of a comprehensive natural resource management strategy for Idaho.

Priority Landscape Areas

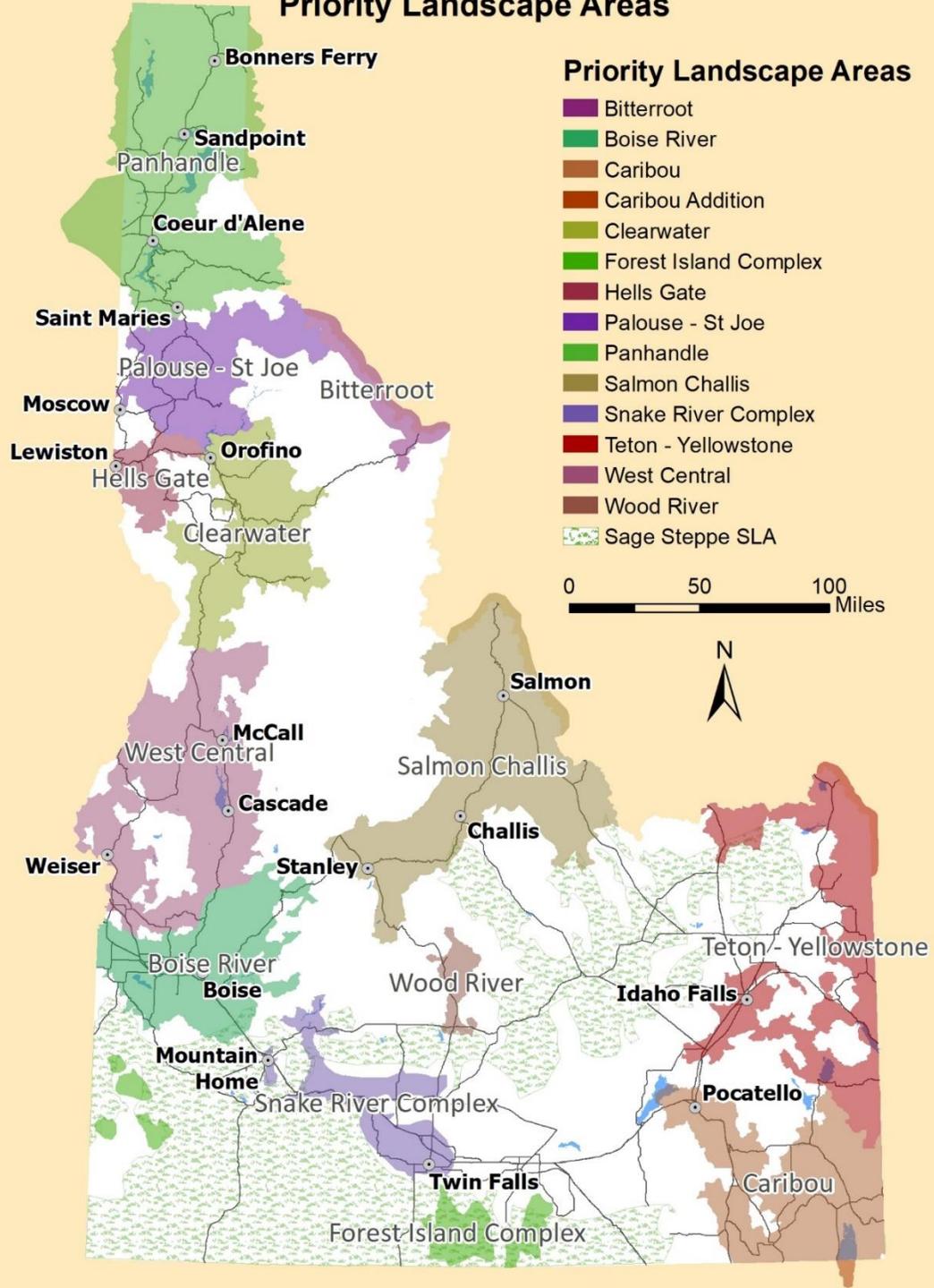


Draft 2020 Priority Landscape Areas



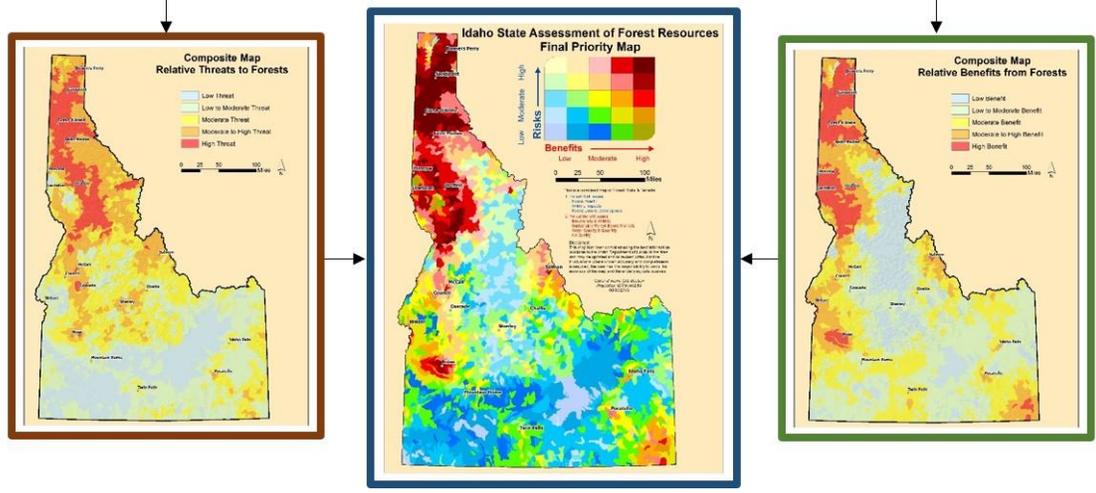
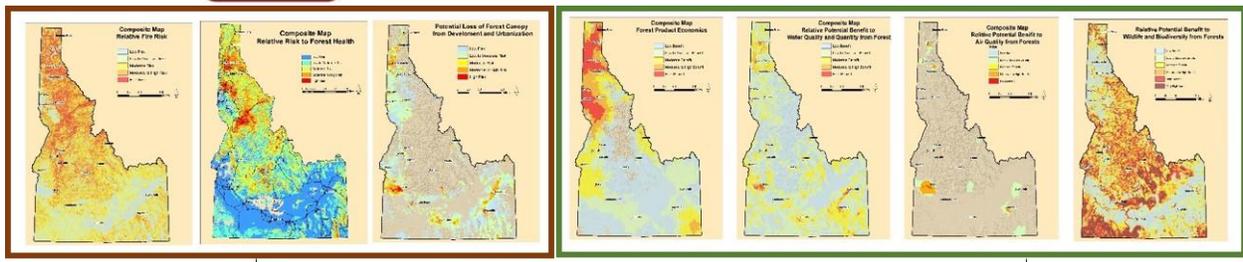
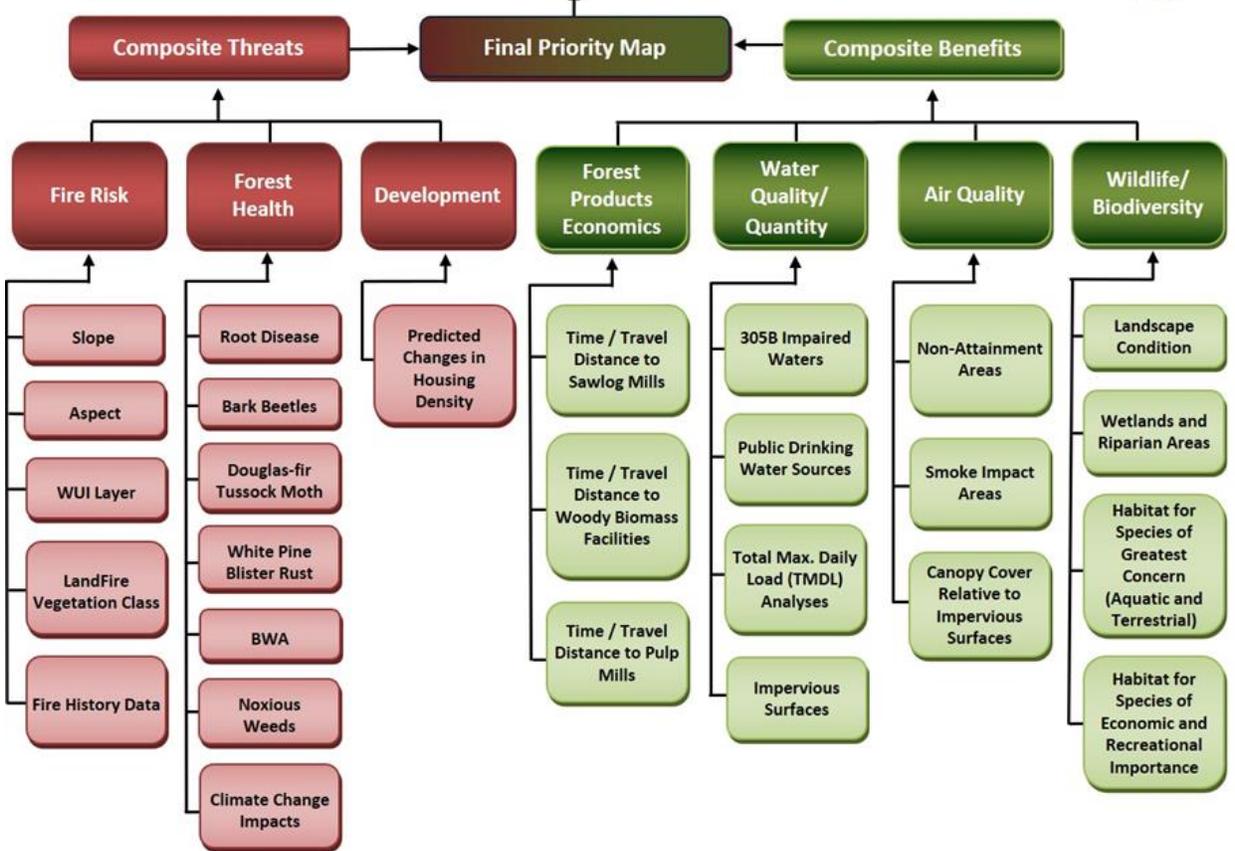
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Idaho State Assessment of Forest Resources Priority Landscape Areas



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Idaho Forest Action Plan - Priority Areas



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Chapter 3 – Goals and Strategies for Idaho

Introduction

The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) reviewed the previously established goals and made changes to align with the new assessment and forest management trends. The 2020 goals and strategies are intended to effectively reduce threats and/or protect, conserve, and enhance the benefits of Idaho's forests. Below is a list of these goals and the strategies to help achieve them. Strategies are categorized by type—Treatments, Partnerships, etc., as a way to more easily understand and characterize their purpose..

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats (fire, insects, disease, noxious weeds, etc.)

Inventory & Analysis – Assess and Monitor conditions of forest systems on a landscape scale for sustainability and resilience

Treatments – Design and implement stand treatments on a landscape scale to increase and maintain vegetation diversity and resiliency over time (urban and rural)

Partnerships – Develop and engage collaborative groups and partnerships for landscape scale forest health improvement, restoration and stewardship

Education – Provide education leading to understanding and support of forest health goals and strategies

Goal 2: Forestlands that provide the highest ecosystem benefits are identified, maintained and enhanced

Inventory & Analysis – Conduct inventory, assessment and monitoring to identify the highest priority forest areas for habitat, forest productivity and management, biodiversity, ecosystem benefits, access and other benefits

Planning – Identify actions that maximize ecosystem services from forests

Treatments – Actively manage forests for goods and ecosystem services

Education – Provide education leading to understanding and support of ecosystem services

Access – Maintain and enhance public access and recreation opportunities

Forest Conservation Incentives – Use conservation actions to effectively protect and enhance high priority forestlands

Goal 3: Forest ecosystems are more resilient to human activities (development, harvest operations, etc.)

Inventory and Analysis – Develop systems for early detection, rapid response and enforcement capacity for early and effective action to minimize adverse impacts to forest ecosystems

Treatments – Implement urban and rural forest practices to mitigate adverse impacts to forest systems and monitor/adapt

Education – Provide education for target audiences leading to understanding and support of forest ecosystem goals (developers, planners, landowners, loggers, realtors, recreationists, others)

Regulation/Policy – Develop land use best management practices (BMPs), which may include rules, ordinances, and/or laws to protect and enhance forests and their ecosystem services and products

Goal 4: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable

Inventory and Analysis – Conduct inventory and assessment to support energy and market development in local communities

Treatments – Use a balanced and sustainable approach in forest management to support both market demand and healthy forests

Marketing – Develop diverse markets, labor and product lines, including the sustainability of regional mill operations

Goal 5: Idaho has a framework for implementing the Forest Action Plan, to guide project prioritization across boundaries.

Inventory & Analysis – Improve information, identify and fill data gaps, and explore/develop new tools and strategies for assessing conditions and implementing projects

Partnerships – Use a state working group to steer and guide implementation of the overall Forest Action Plan (FAP). Use local groups and partnerships to develop and implement strategies for individual Priority Areas. The statewide team and local groups will work together to develop and implement annual plans and to update the FAP.

The table below indicates how the goals and strategies from the previous two pages—and their descriptions—correlate to the threats and benefits issues. For example, implementing actions based on the Managed Fire strategy listed under goal 1 will help address forest health, wildfire, wildlife/biodiversity and water quality & quantity issues

Goals and Strategies	ISSUES ADDRESSED							Connecting People to Forests
	Threats			Benefits				
Strategies	Forest Health	Wildfire	Development Pressure	Wildlife/Biodiversity	Water Quality & Quantity	Air Quality	Sustainable Wood Product Economics	
Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other threats								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Partnerships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 2: Forestlands that provide the highest ecosystem benefits are identified, maintained and enhanced								
Inventory & Analysis	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access			✓	✓				✓
Forest Conservation			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goal 3: Forest ecosystems are more resilient to human activities								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Treatments	✓	✓	✓					
Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Regulation/Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goal 4: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable								
Inventory & Analysis	✓	✓					✓	
Treatments	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Marketing	✓						✓	✓
Goal 5: Idaho has a framework for implementing the Idaho FAP to guide project prioritization across boundaries								
Inventory & Analysis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Partnerships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*The following table emphasizes the goals using the same color ramp that was used in the Final Priority map found in the Forest Assessment section of the plan, where cooler colors represent low priority and warmer colors represent higher priority. When used in combination with the previous table the appropriate strategies can be applied to increase forest benefits or address forest threats within the Priority Landscape Areas (PLA). *Please note that Goal 5 is not included in the below table because of the emphasis of it being primarily at a statewide scale.*

Goals	1	2	3	4
Panhandle	Orange	Red	Orange	Red
Palouse-St. Joe	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Bitterroot	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Hells Gate	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Yellow
Clearwater	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
West Central	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
Boise River	Red	Orange	Red	Yellow
Salmon Challis	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Wood river	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
Snake River Complex	Orange	Blue	Yellow	Yellow
Forest Island Complex	Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Teton-Yellowstone	Blue	Orange	Yellow	Orange
Caribou	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Orange
Sage-steppe	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Blue
Statewide	Red	Yellow	Orange	Orange

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Chapter 4 – Implementation of Strategies

Introduction

The information within this document provides a long-term, comprehensive approach for coordinating state, federal, and leveraged partner resources to address landscape priorities. The completion of this document re-emphasizes stakeholder and partner engagement to implement strategies across all ownerships.

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) will continue to work with key stakeholders and Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) members to prioritize strategies statewide and within each Priority Landscape Area (PLA). This allows for an approach for selecting prospective projects to implement and/or identify project-specific funding opportunities throughout the state. Additional collaborative work will be conducted as needed to further refine strategies and address the issues and needs identified in the PLAs.

Where there are potential conflicts between goals and strategies, projects developed from the strategies should be balanced as appropriate for the site: e.g. defensible space/fire risk planning versus preservation of wildlife habitat and tree canopy; or the need to balance the economic benefits of the forest for mills and biomass facilities with sustainable forests. Otherwise, success toward one goal could be a detriment to another; a benefit could become a threat.

Use of the Forest Action Plan (FAP) by the Idaho Department of Lands

State Forest Action Plans are integral to State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign and required of states as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill. That is, as a condition of future Federal funding for S&PF programs, completion and utilization of these documents is required.

The FAP will guide future S&PF program work. This document serves as an integrated 10-year plan for the IDL programs described in Chapter 1. The FAP as updated includes the Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) and will be used to further identify opportunities and priorities for acquiring easements.

Each S&PF program will consult the FAP, the ILRCC, and associated sub-committees and program partners on programmatic decisions that result in the most beneficial, on-the-ground impact to Idaho's urban and rural forestlands. The FAP will be key in the S&PF programs delivery to implement projects that address national priorities, target program objectives, and result in meaningful outcomes. Wherever possible, efforts will address the identified issues through an integrated approach utilizing the suite of the S&PF programs.

To ensure their effective use, the Idaho S&PF programs will utilize the FAP when:

- Applying for competitive grant projects
- Determining priorities for use of Consolidated Payment Grant dollars
- Collaborating with ILRCC and other partners to implement strategies
- Working with forestry agencies to develop projects that address mutual priorities
- Developing integrated program action plans

Idaho's S&PF Programs will develop a process to engage as needed the ILRCC and other stakeholders to review and adjust the FAP as forest conditions and management objectives change. This review will serve as an opportunity for the stakeholders to continue 1) incorporating new and relevant data, and filling data gaps within the Resource Assessment; 2) incorporating additional stakeholder input; 3) identifying and improving statewide strategies; and 4) developing annual implementation and action plans.

The FAP emphasizes collaborative work and incorporates input of partners and organizations at the state level and locally across the state. While it is a central objective of FAP development that these strategies be constructively used by agencies, organizations, individual landowners, and land management entities, it is recognized that the IDL is the only entity obligated to use these tools.

Use of the Forest Action Plan by Stakeholders and Collaborative Groups

The FAP can and should serve as a springboard toward a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to forest management that addresses critical forest issues. Specifically, the FAP is a tool for leveraging and prioritizing projects across ownerships to include national forest lands and other federal ownerships. Projects on non-private lands that align with the goals and strategies of the FAP should receive stronger support from partners and publics during National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning and implementation. Broader support for federal projects will result in an increase of on-the-ground activities and promote a landscape scale or “all lands” approach to management of forest resources.

Idaho’s S&PF programs will maintain contact with stakeholders and work collaboratively to identify projects and generate ideas on marketing and dissemination of the FAP. Together, they will identify additional organizations that can work collaboratively to implement cross-boundary projects and most effectively enhance forest benefits and mitigate forest threats across the landscape.

COHESIVE STRATEGY

In 2009, Congress passed the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act), which directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to develop a comprehensive national cohesive wildland fire management strategy to address wildland fire management across all lands in the United States.

The Cohesive Strategy is incorporated into this document as an important addition toward addressing the FAP goals. Focusing on the three main tenets—resilient landscapes, resilient communities and strengthened response—addresses not only wildland fire management, but also improves the health, resilience and overall benefits of Idaho Forests. All actions that we take as land managers will directly affect these directives. Cohesive strategy is truly an “all hands/all lands” approach to natural resource management.

The National Strategy recognizes and accepts fire as a natural process necessary for the maintenance of many ecosystems and strives to reduce conflicts between fire-prone landscapes and people. By simultaneously considering the role of fire in the landscape, the ability of humans to plan for and adapt to living with fire, and the need to be prepared to respond to fire when it occurs, the Cohesive Strategy takes a holistic approach to the future of wildland fire management.

The challenges for fire management are formidable and growing more complex. Large blocks of publicly owned land comprise more than half the West’s total land area. Fires that start on public lands and move onto private land, threatening communities, are a major problem, compounded by finite fire protection resources. To combat escalating risks posed by wildfire, thorough understanding of resource needs and opportunities by all is required. Additionally, the efficient and effective allocation and use of finite resources is essential. Continued collaboration among stakeholders remains a key to success.

The Western Region’s diverse landscapes which include expanding wildland urban interface, steep terrain, access limitations, changing climate conditions, invasive species, and extended drought challenge wildland fire managers. The continued expansion of human development into previously “wild” areas adds considerable complexity to wildfire management. Development codes largely are lacking that address natural hazards to include wildfire, while local fire departments are providing more services with fewer resources.

Stressors such as drought increase forest susceptibility to infestations of insects, pathogens, and disease. In some areas of the West, these stressors have left millions of acres of dead, standing trees. Add to this a century plus of widespread fire exclusion and a decrease in active forest management, resulting in a buildup of surface fuels and forests overstocked with trees and ladder fuels. Compounding these issues, non-forested areas have experienced an increase in fire frequency, contributing invasive species expansion, further altering fire regimes and impacting other ecosystem services.

The forest and rangeland health issues in the West are widespread and increasing, affecting wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity and long-term soil productivity, while providing conditions for uncharacteristically large, severe, and costly wildfires, with ever increasing threats to human life and property.

The West needs large landscape-scale changes in vegetative structure and fuel loadings to significantly alter wildfire behavior, reduce wildfire losses, ensure firefighter and public safety, and improve landscape resiliency. Active management of public and private lands, including harvesting and thinning operations, when coupled with building standards regulations are critical to meeting the tenants of the strategy.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council adopted the following vision for the next century⁴:

To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire.

The three national goals identified as necessary to achieving the vision are:

Restore and maintain landscapes: Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

Fire-adapted communities: Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.

Wildfire response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Shared Stewardship

In August 2018, Shared Stewardship was shared as a conceptual idea by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, and the USDA Forest Service Interim Chief, Vicki Christiansen, as a way to increase the pace and scale of forest management across federal land.

Shared Stewardship will play a critical role in cross-boundary project identification and management in Idaho. As agencies align efforts and resources to create ‘meaningful’ impacts at landscape scales, ecosystems, in all their parts, will become more resilient to disturbances. The Idaho Shared Stewardship Initiative will focus on treating prioritized landscapes by promoting cross-boundary work on state, private, tribal, and Federal lands to protect communities from wildfire, improve forest and watershed health, and sustain jobs and local economies in Idaho.

The need to coordinate strategies across boundaries becomes ever more imperative as more communities are established in the wildland urban interface, while financial assistance to improve forest

⁴ The guiding principles and core values for wildland fire management embodied within the Cohesive Strategy are listed in [Appendix H on page 88](#).

conditions stagnates or falls. The opportunity to align budgeting, planning and implementation has never been stronger than at the authoring of this update. The silo's that have been in place between agencies are beginning to come down, thus allowing for the blurring of lines, invigorating the enthusiasm to get the 'work' done. To this end in December 2018 an agreement was signed between that State and the Forest Service to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health, and support jobs through additional, coordinated active land-management projects that are implemented across ownership boundaries. Following the signing of the agreement Idaho's Governor designated two priority landscapes in July 2019 that will serve as proving grounds to create tools for use throughout Idaho.

The Shared Stewardship initiative has brought to light many opportunities to coordinate and collaborate to meet the Shared Stewardship agreement. Specifically, the Idaho Department of Lands has committed financial and staff resources to ensuring the continued expansion of Shared Stewardship throughout Idaho. This same commitment is occurring with the USDA Forest Service and is expanding to other partners within the priority landscapes.

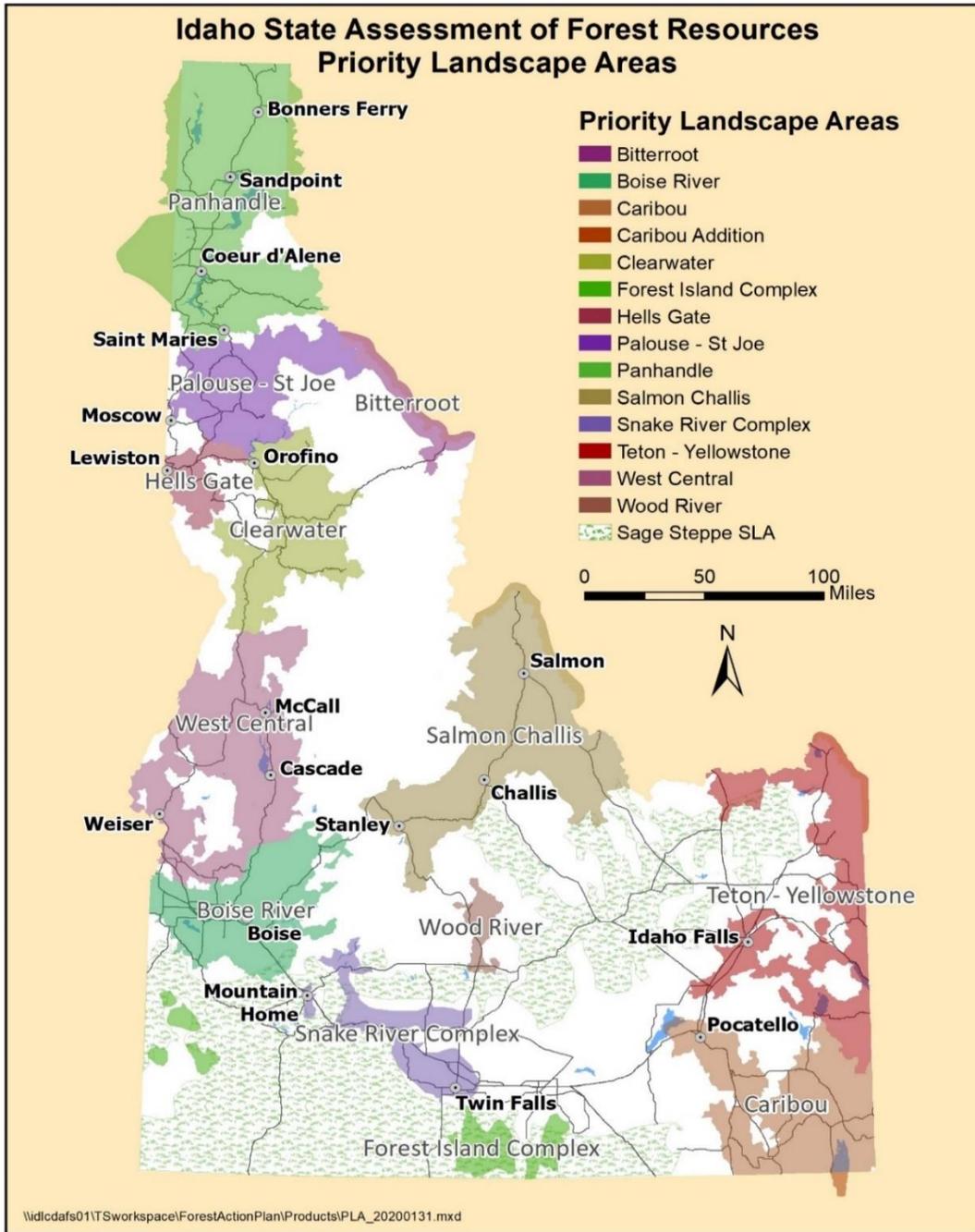
The FAP has been and will continue to be a critical tool in the continued development and entrenchment of Shared Stewardship in Idaho. The FAP serves as a foundational document to guide decision makers and strategies to address forest management needs in Idaho. For additional information about Shared Stewardship please refer to [Appendix I](#).

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Chapter 5 – Priority Landscape Areas

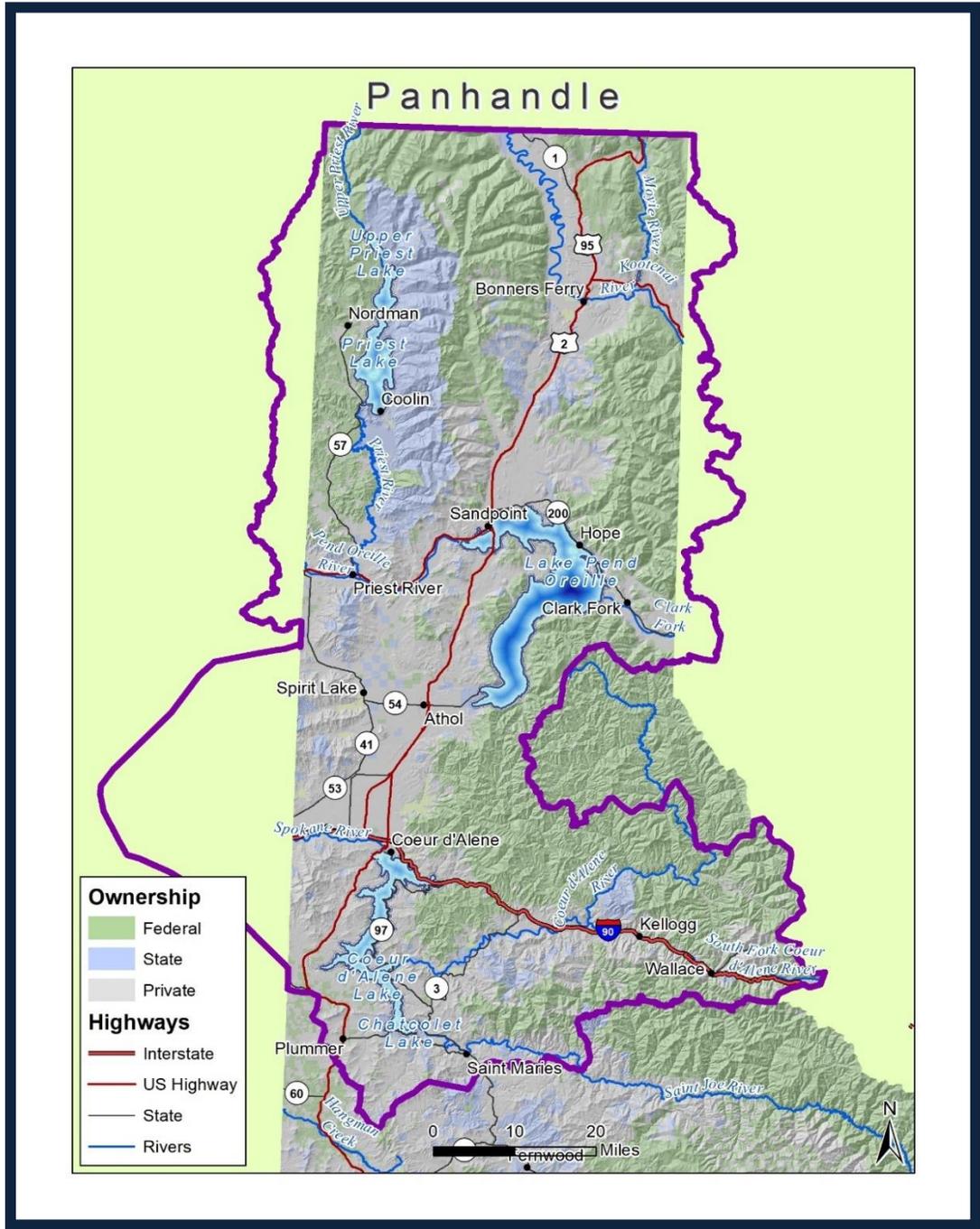
Introduction

In this chapter the reader will find a general description of each Priority Landscape Area (PLA), a zoomed in map of each PLA, the individual modeled issues within each PLA, and a list of partners or groups with each PLA. To identify which strategies are of highest priority to address issues or increase benefits from forests, the reader is encouraged to reference the table in [Chapter 3 on page 24](#).



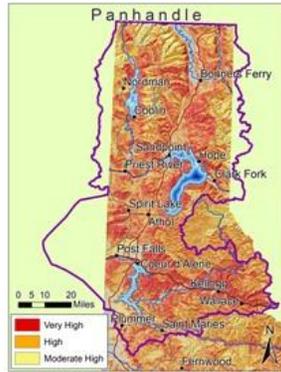
Idaho Panhandle Priority Landscape Areas including NW Montana, NE Washington and Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer

The Idaho Panhandle PLA covers the northern part of the state, from the Canadian border to the St. Joe drainage. It includes Priest Lake, Lake Pend Oreille and Lake Coeur d'Alene. This PLA includes the Kootenai, Moyie, Pend Oreille, Priest, Clark Fork, Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers. The Primary population centers include Bonners Ferry, Priest River, Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Kellogg, Wallace, and St. Maries. Major mountain ranges include the Idaho Selkirk, Purcell, Cabinet, Coeur d'Alene and the northern part of the Bitterroot Mountain Ranges.

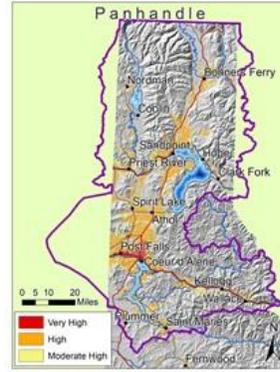




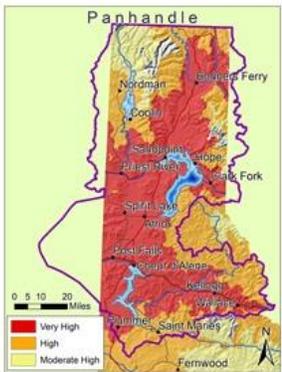
Forest Health



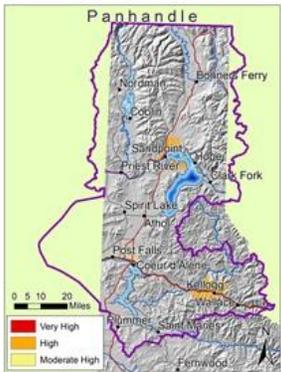
Wildfire Risk



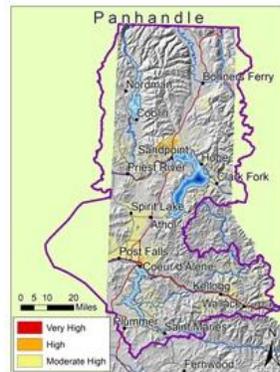
Development Pressure



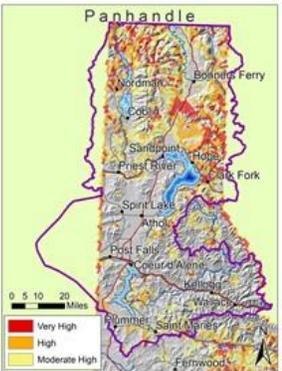
Forest Economics



Air Quality



Water Quality/Quantity



Wildlife/Biodiversity

**Panhandle Priority Landscape Area
& NW Montana and NE Washington**

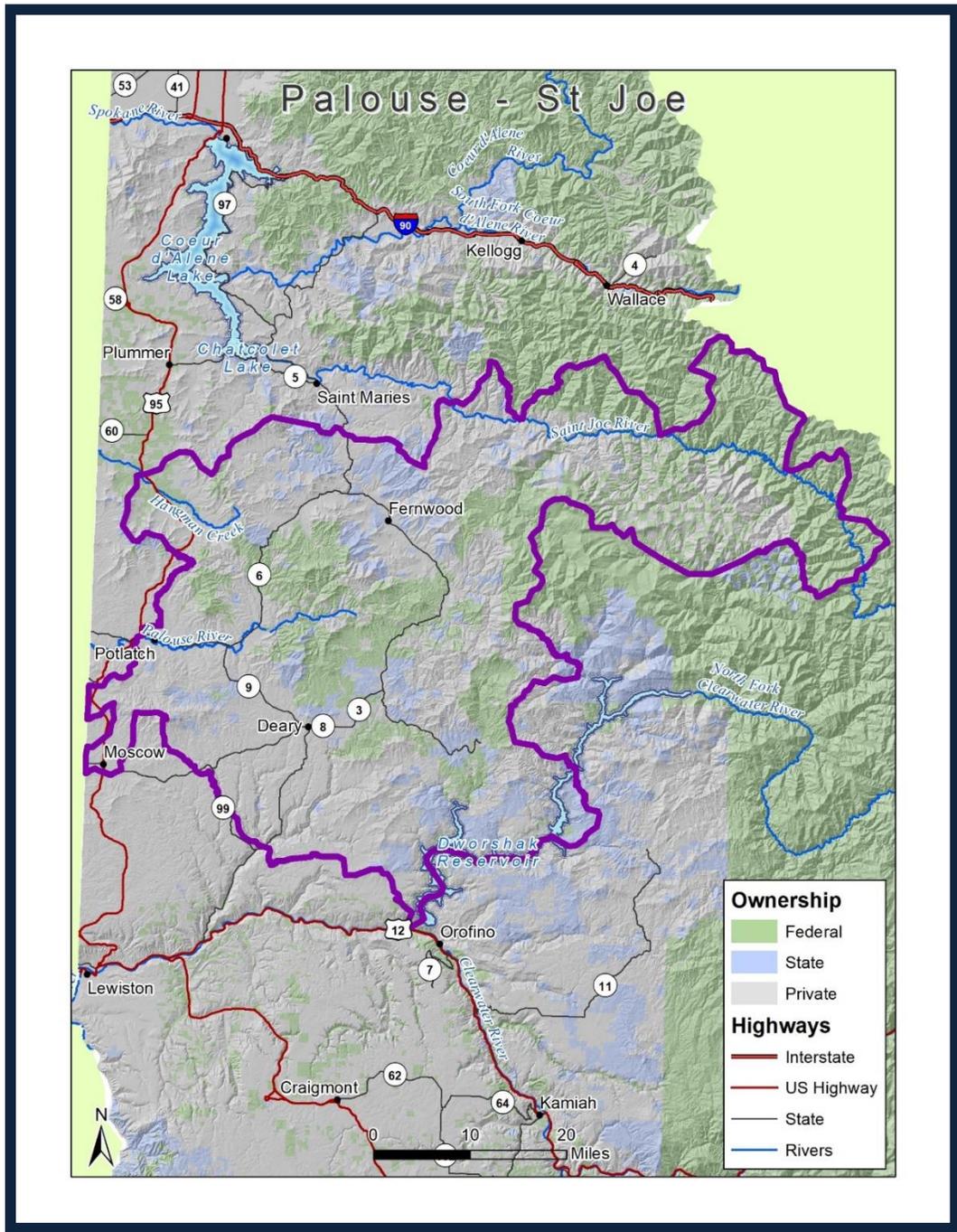
Resource Groups

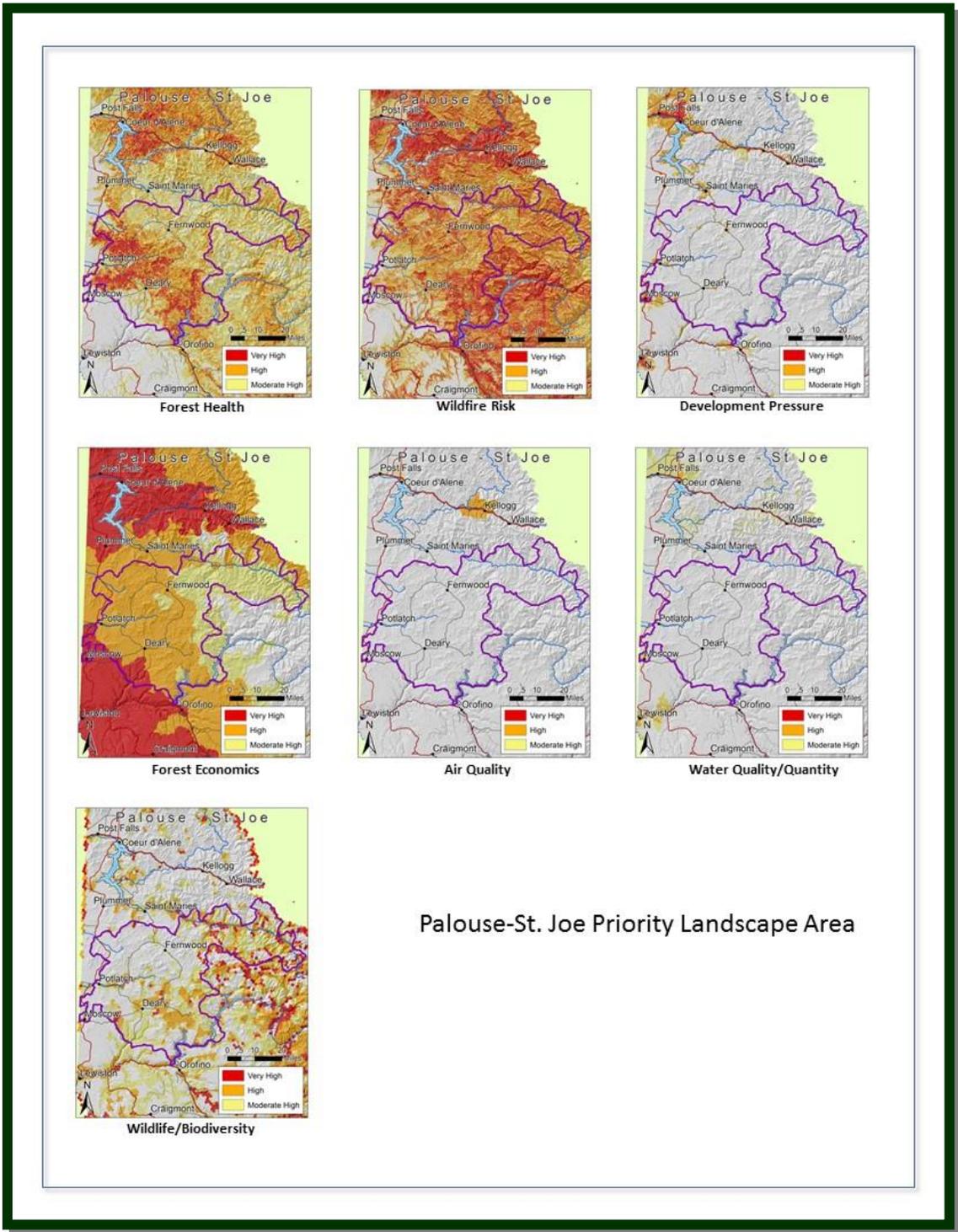
Clark Fork Management Committee • Grizzly Bear Subcommittee—Boundary • Smith WMA Management Committee • Selkirk/Cabinet – Yaak IGBC Subcommittee • Pend Oreille Basin Commission • Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative partners • Kootenai Tribe • North Idaho Renewable Energy Coalition (NIREC) • Tri-State Water Quality Council • Panhandle Area Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • Ponderay Water Watchers • Priest Community Forest Connection • Winter Knights • Scotchman Peaks Group • Salmon Recovery Funding Board • County CWPP Committees • Sandpoint Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society • Panhandle Backcountry Horsemen • Selkirk Conservation Alliance • Priest Lake Sportsmen • Boundary County Sportsmen • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • Coeur d’Alene Chamber Natural Resources Committee • Coeur d’Alene Forestry Coalition • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Friends of Rathdrum Mountain • NIREC • Spokane Valley Rathdrum Mountain Aquifer Atlas Group • Coeur d’Alene Sports Coalition • Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Palouse-St. Joe Priority Landscape Area

The Palouse-St. Joe PLA extends from Moscow and the Washington border in the west to the Montana border on the east and encompasses the upper St. Joe River valley, the Palouse River, Hangman Creek and portions of Dworshak Reservoir south to Highway 12. A portion of the State-owned Floodwood Forest is in their PLA, as is most of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. The primary population centers include Moscow, Deary, Troy, and Potlatch.





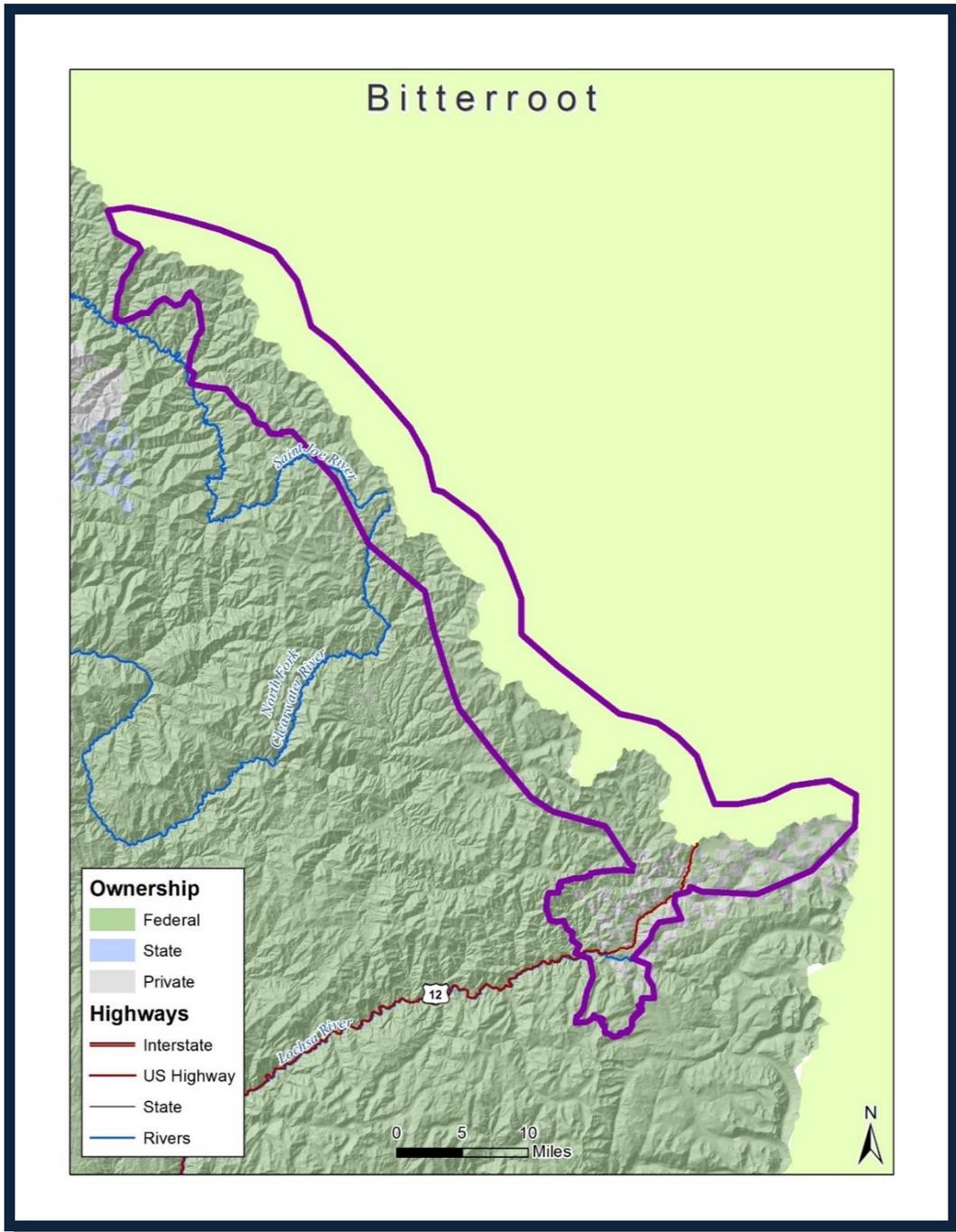
Resource Groups

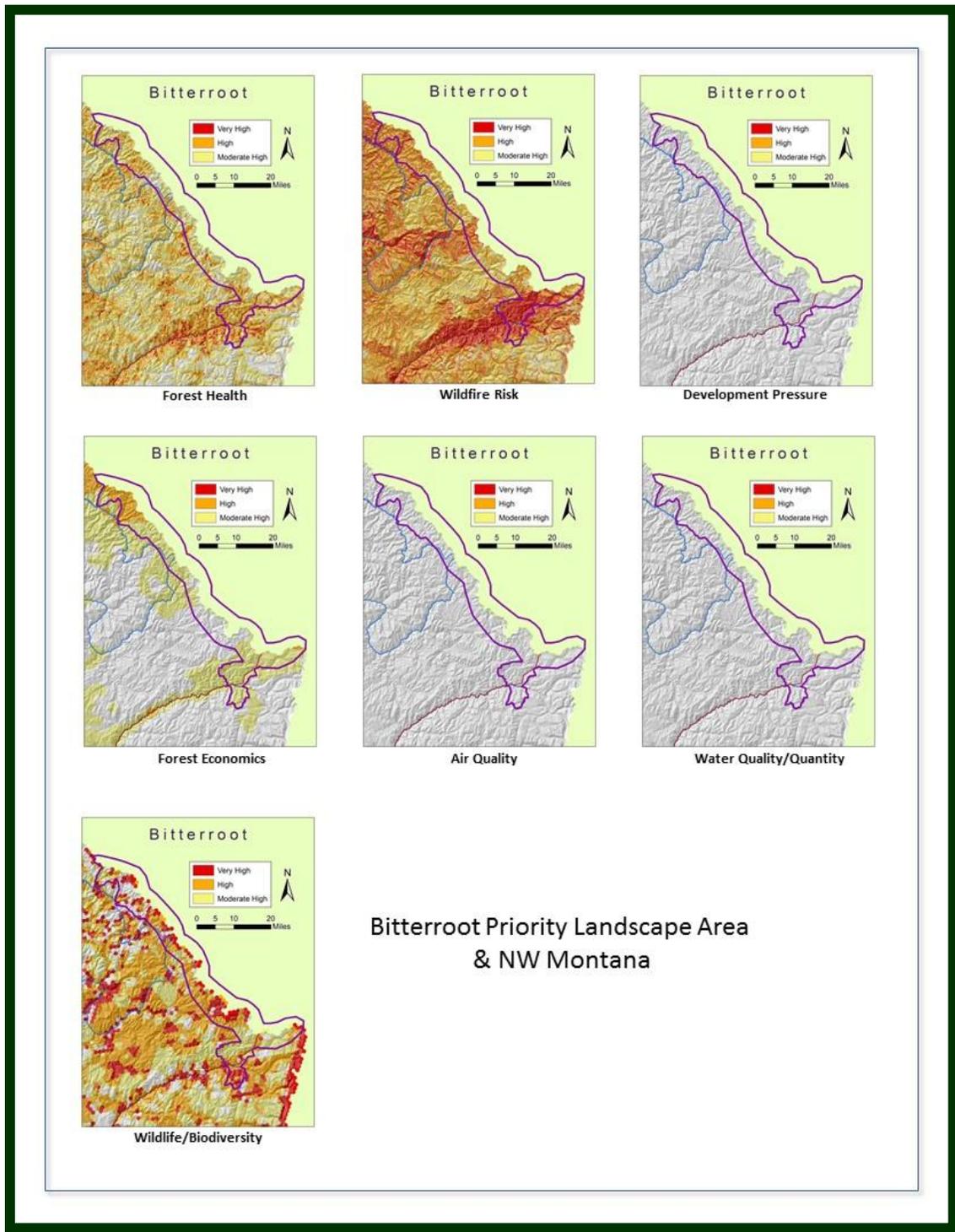
Waters of the West at the University of Idaho • Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee • Clearwater Basin Collaborative • Clearwater Economic Development Association • Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute • Friends of Moscow Mountain • Latah Trail Foundation • Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association • Moscow Mountain Cedar Grove Steering Committee • Waters of the West • County CWWGs • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Shoshone-Benewah Forest Collaborative

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Bitterroot Priority Landscape Area

The Bitterroot PLA includes the headwaters of the St. Joe and North Fork of the Clearwater along the Montana border, south to the Highway 12 corridor. There are no incorporated towns in this PLA.





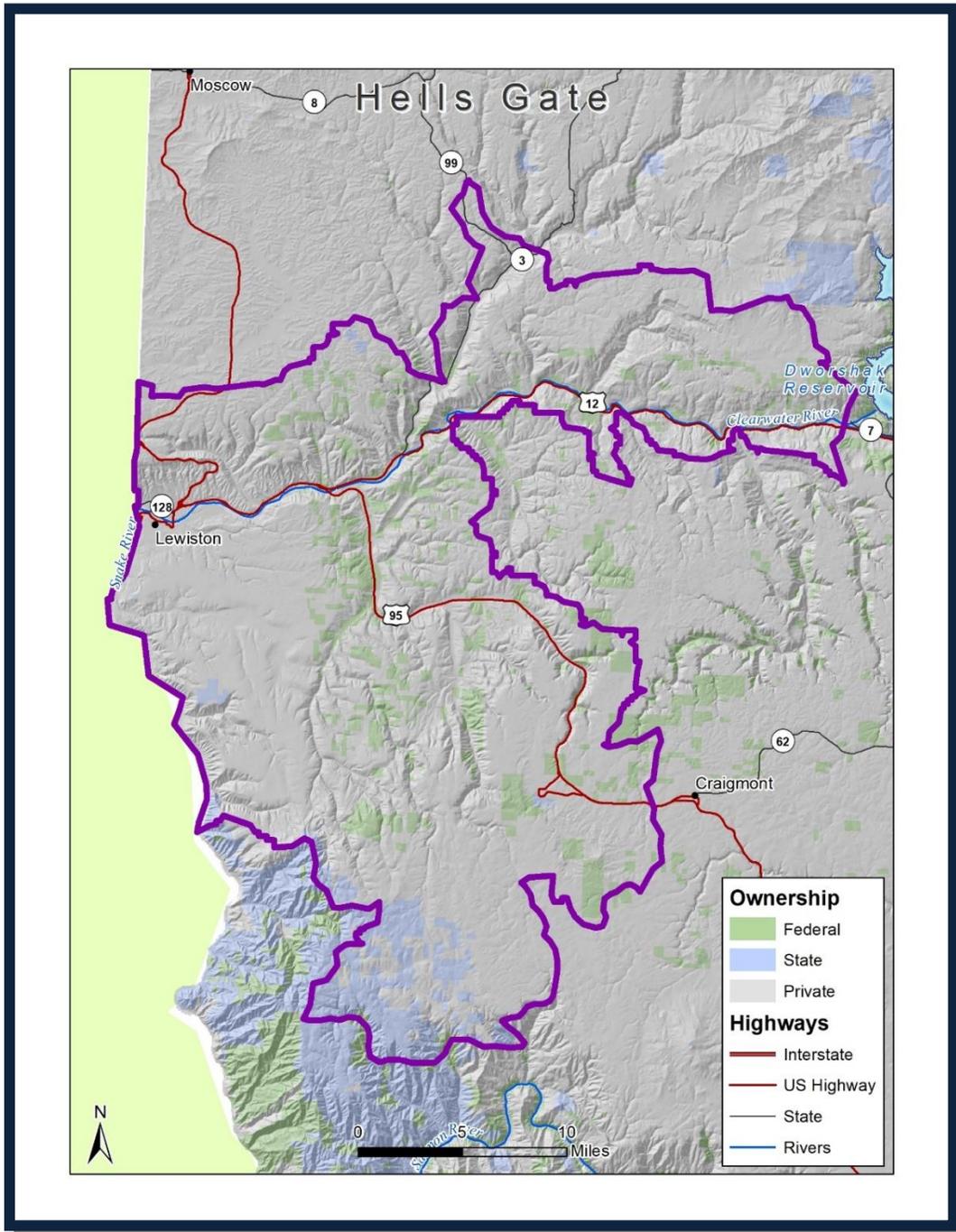
Resource Groups

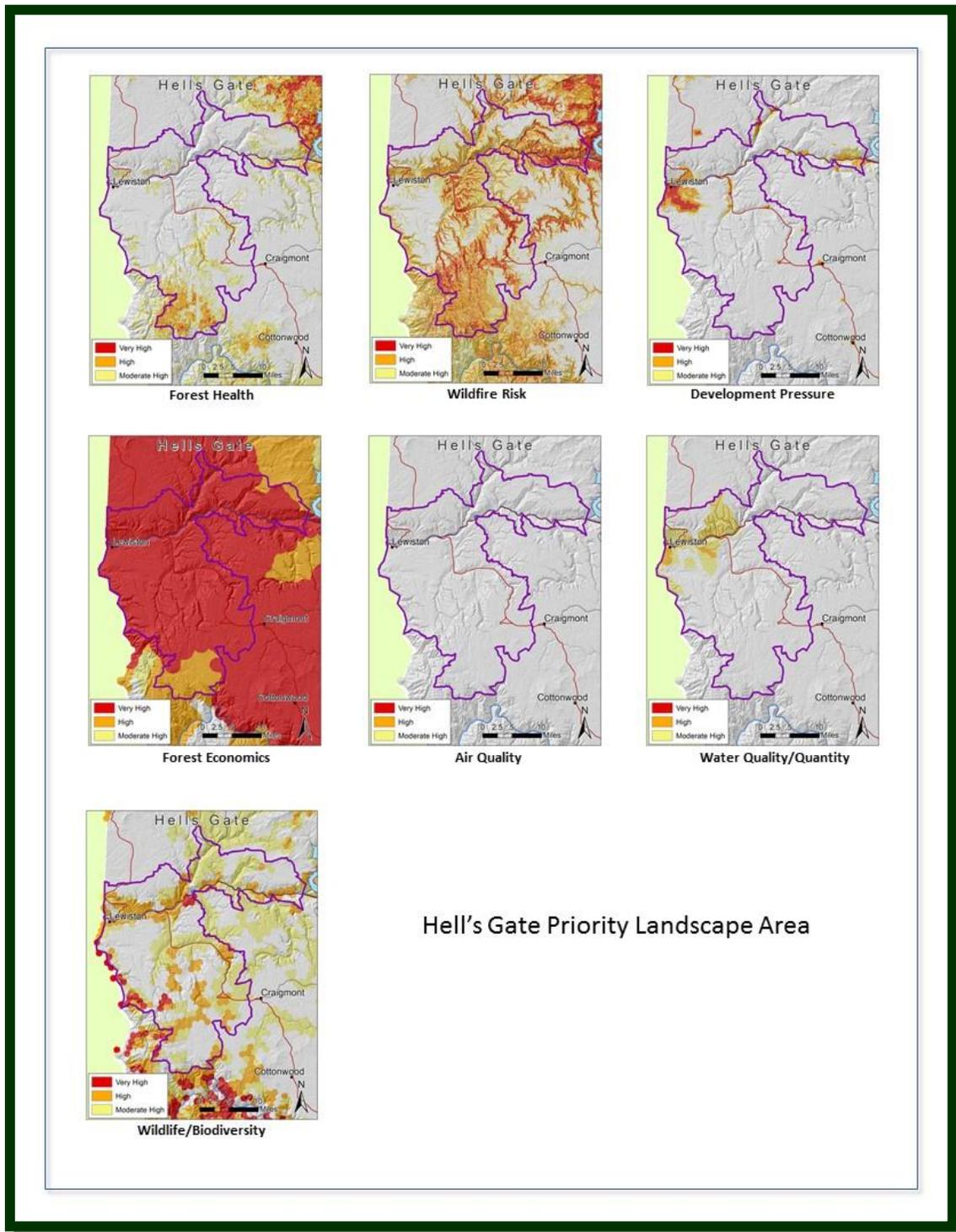
Clearwater Basin Collaborative • Public Land Access Year-round • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • County Wildfire Working Groups • Shoshone-Benewah Forest Collaborative

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Hells Gate Priority Landscape Area Including Montana Bitterroot

The Hells Gate PLA extends from the Kendrick in the north to Craig Mountain in the south and from the Washington state line east to Dworshak Reservoir. It includes the lower Clearwater and Potlatch Rivers. The main population centers are Lewiston, Lapwai, Winchester, and CULdesac. Winchester State Park is within this PLA.





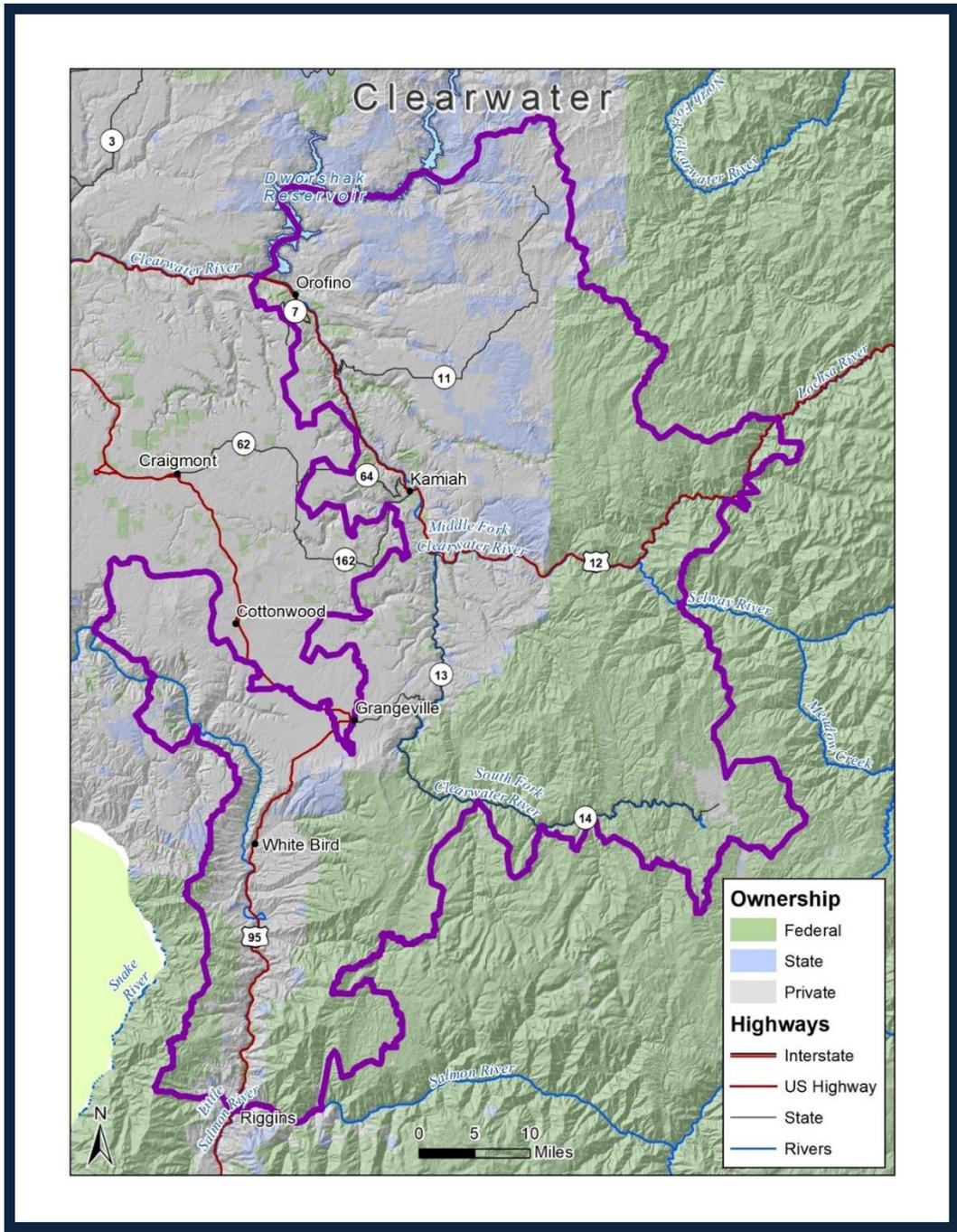
Resource Groups

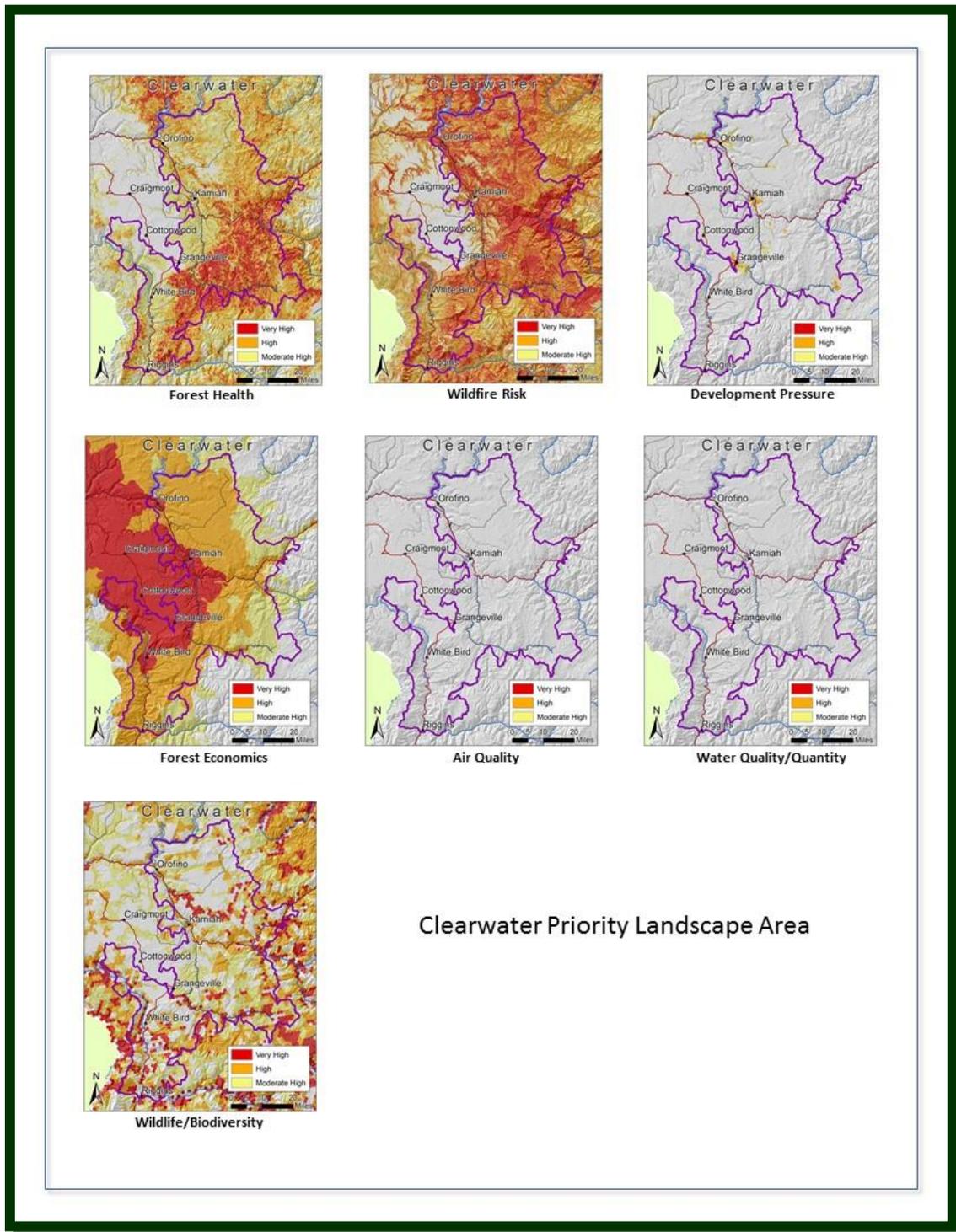
- Waters of the West • Back Country Hunters and Anglers • Cooperative Weed Management Association • Clearwater Resource Conservation and Development Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • County Wildfire Working Groups • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

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Clearwater Priority Landscape Area

The Clearwater PLA extends from Dworshak Reservoir in the north to Riggins in the south. It includes the Highway 12 corridor, the upper Clearwater River and its main tributaries, as well as a portion of the Salmon River. Orofino, Kamiah, Kooskia, Grangeville, and Whitebird are the main population centers.





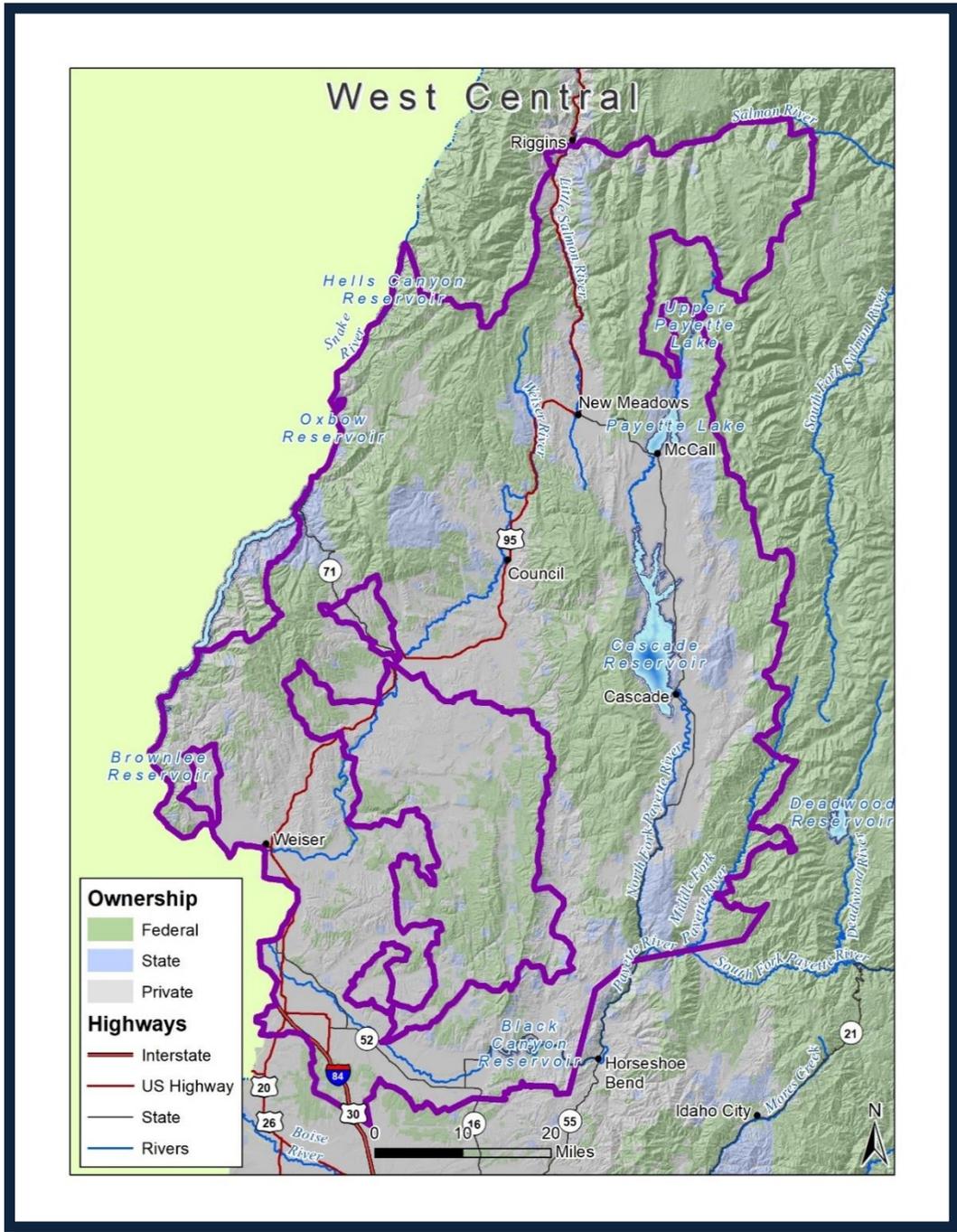
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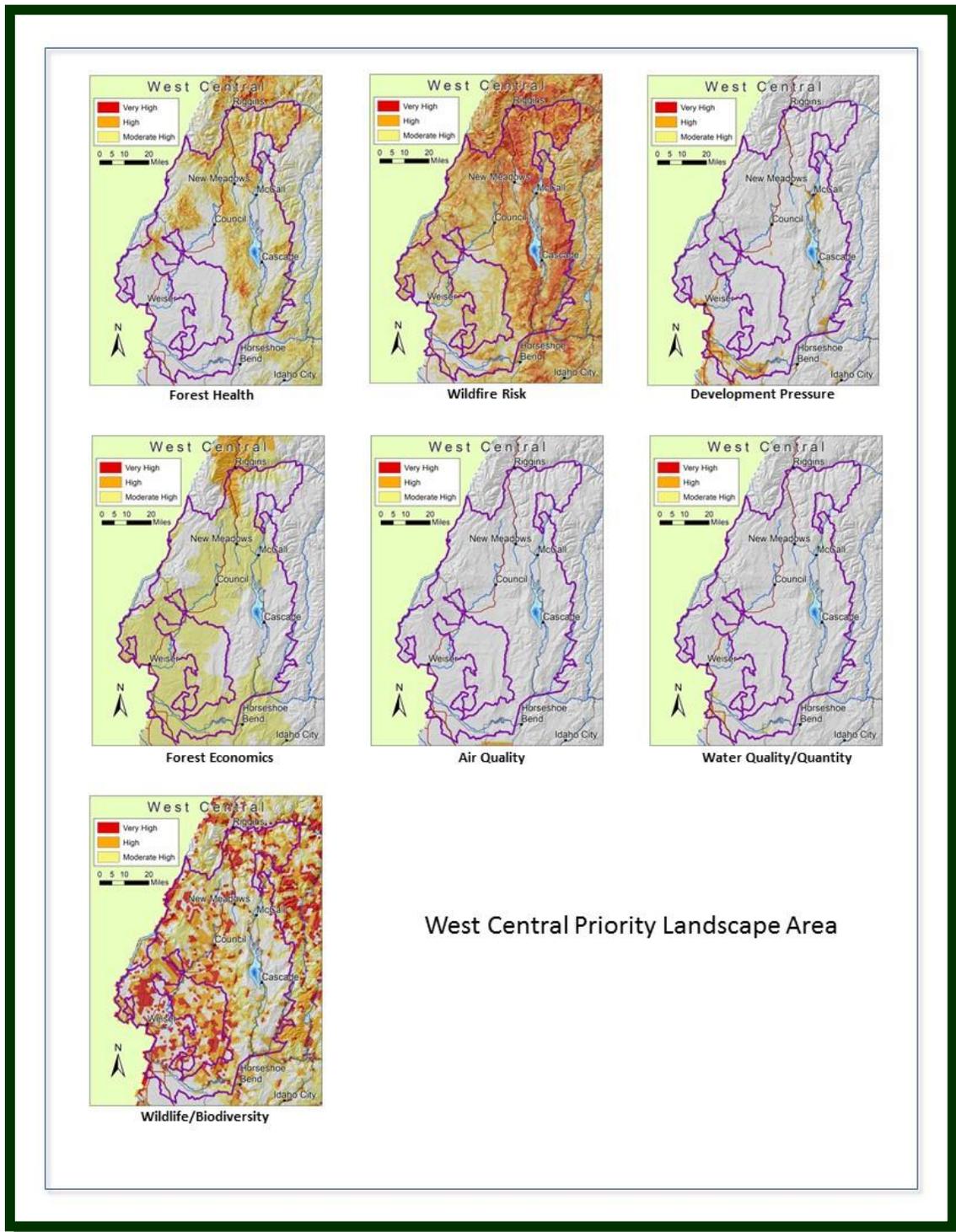
Clearwater Basin Collaborative • North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council • Public Land Access Year-round • Shoshone County Forest Health Collaborative • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil and Water Conservation Districts • County Wildfire Working Groups • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Idaho Dept of Fish & Game

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West Central Idaho Priority Landscape Area

The West Central PLA borders the Clearwater PLA to the north and extends south to Payette, Emmett and Horseshoe Bend and from the Oregon border in the west to the Middle Fork of the Payette River in the east. It includes Payette and Cascade Lakes, the Weiser River drainage, the Middle Fork of the Payette River, and the southern portion of the Little Salmon River. The primary population centers include the cities of Council, Cascade, Emmett, New Meadows, McCall, and Weiser.





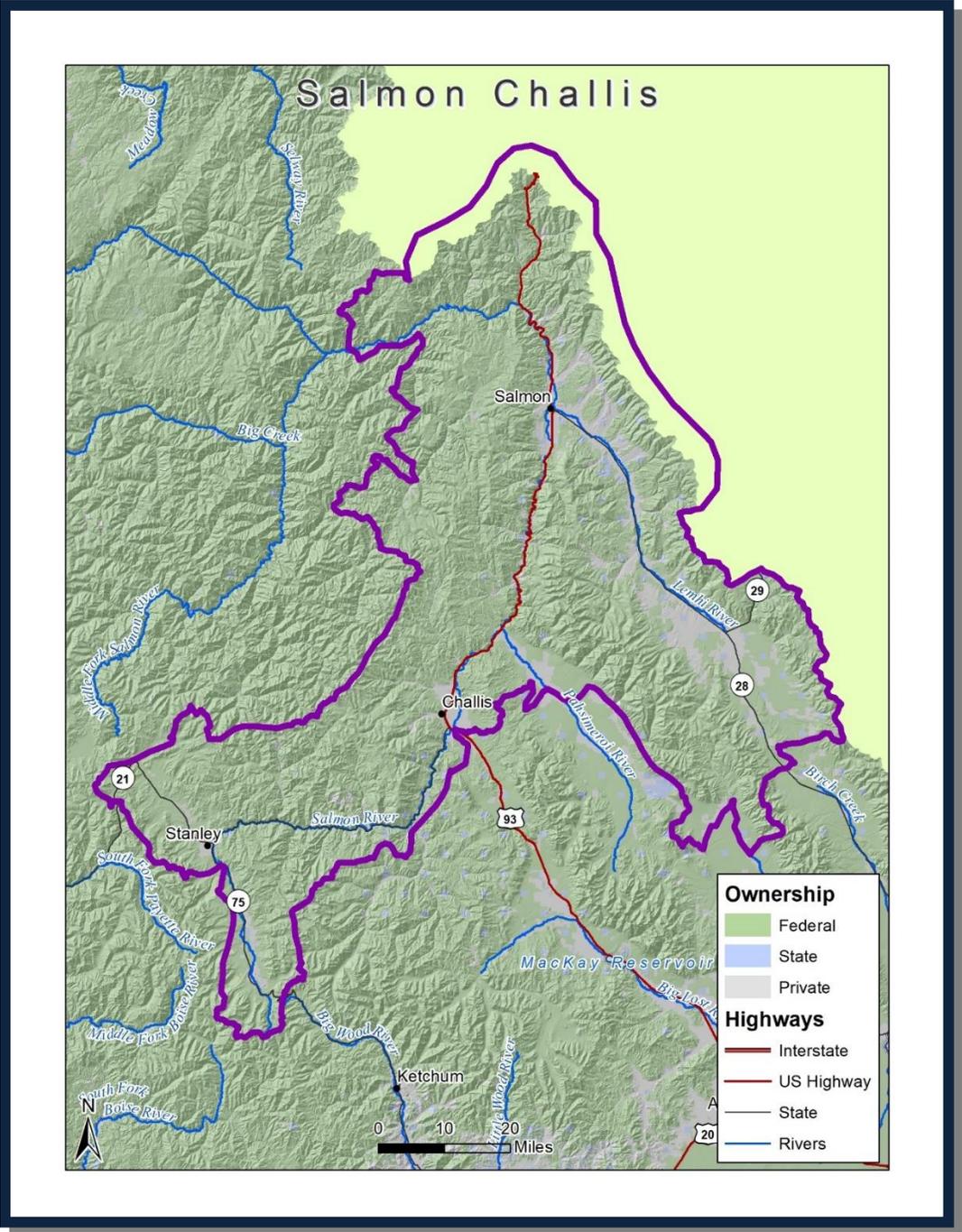
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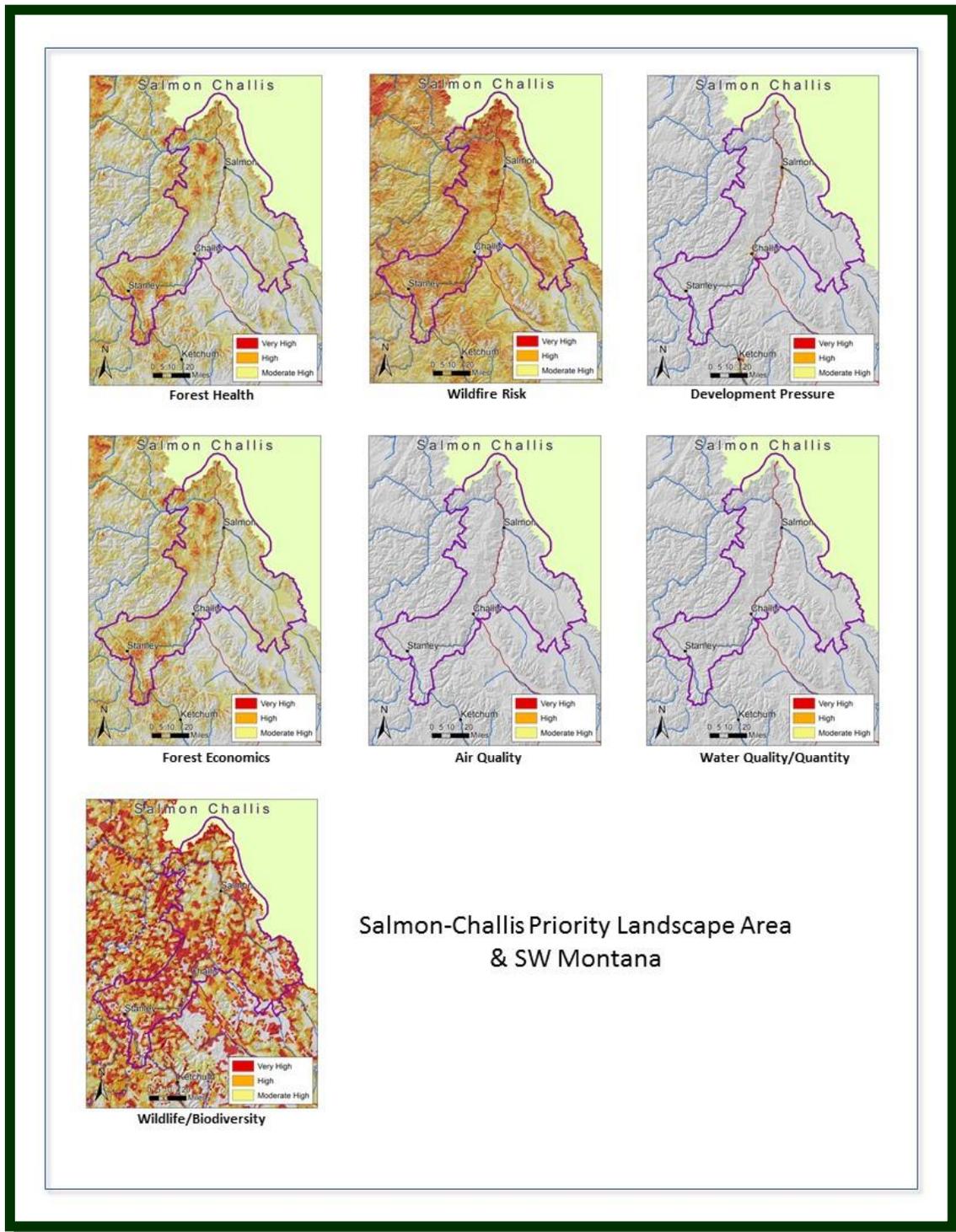
- Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership • Payette Forest Coalition • Friends of Weiser River • Idaho Working Lands Coalition • West Central Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Council • Watershed Advisory Groups • County Wildfire Working Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • Black Canyon RFPA

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Salmon-Challis Priority Landscape Area including SW Montana

The Salmon-Challis PLA includes the headwaters of the Salmon and Lemhi Rivers. The main population centers are Salmon, Challis and Stanley. The Beaverhead area of Montana is included in this PLA.



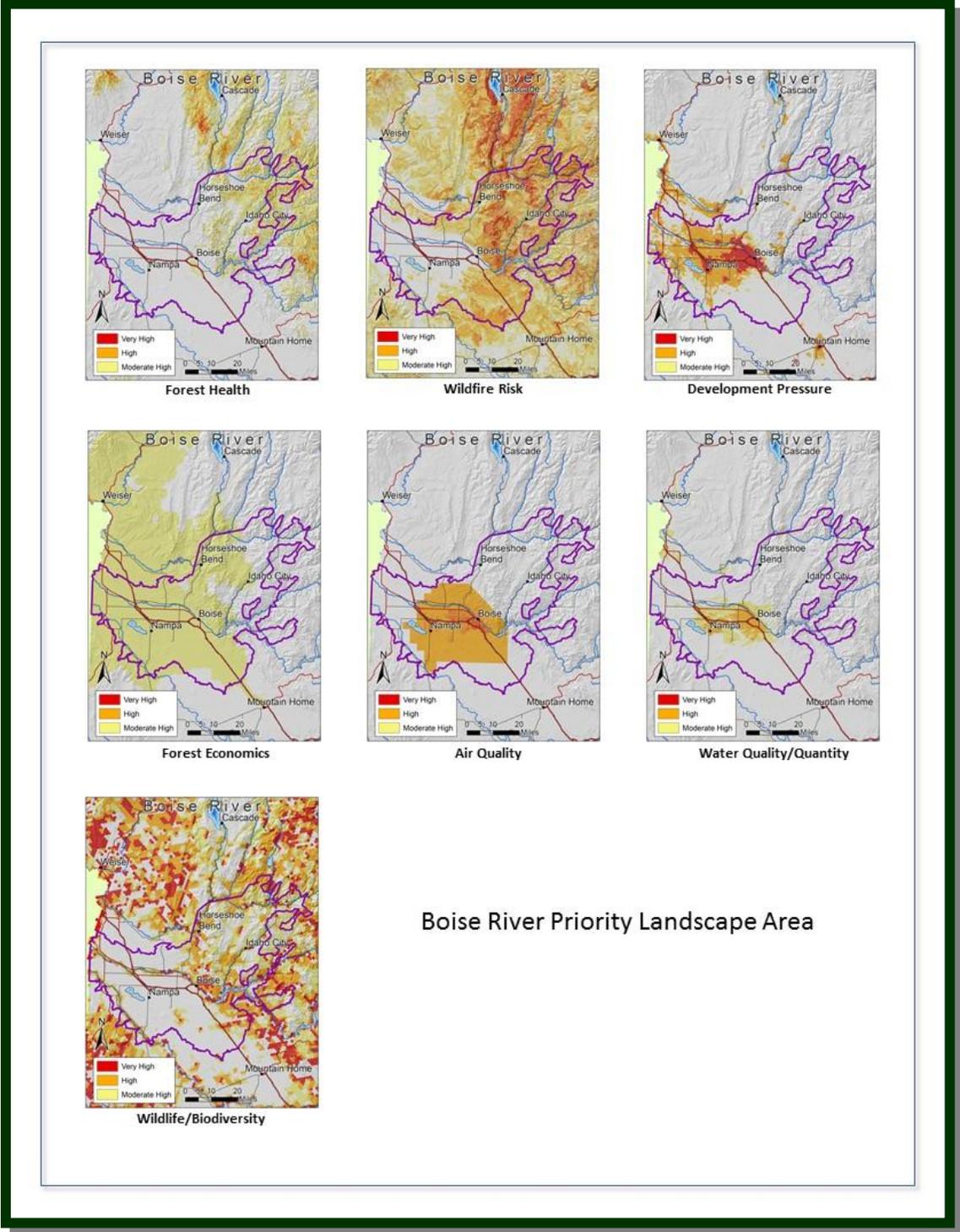


Salmon-Challis Priority Landscape Area
& SW Montana

Resource Groups

Salmon Valley Stewardship Group • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Idaho Dept of Fish & Game • Lemhi Forest Restoration Group • Central Idaho Public Lands Collaborative • High Divide Collaborative • Lemhi Regional Land Trust • Trout Unlimited • Camas Creek RFP

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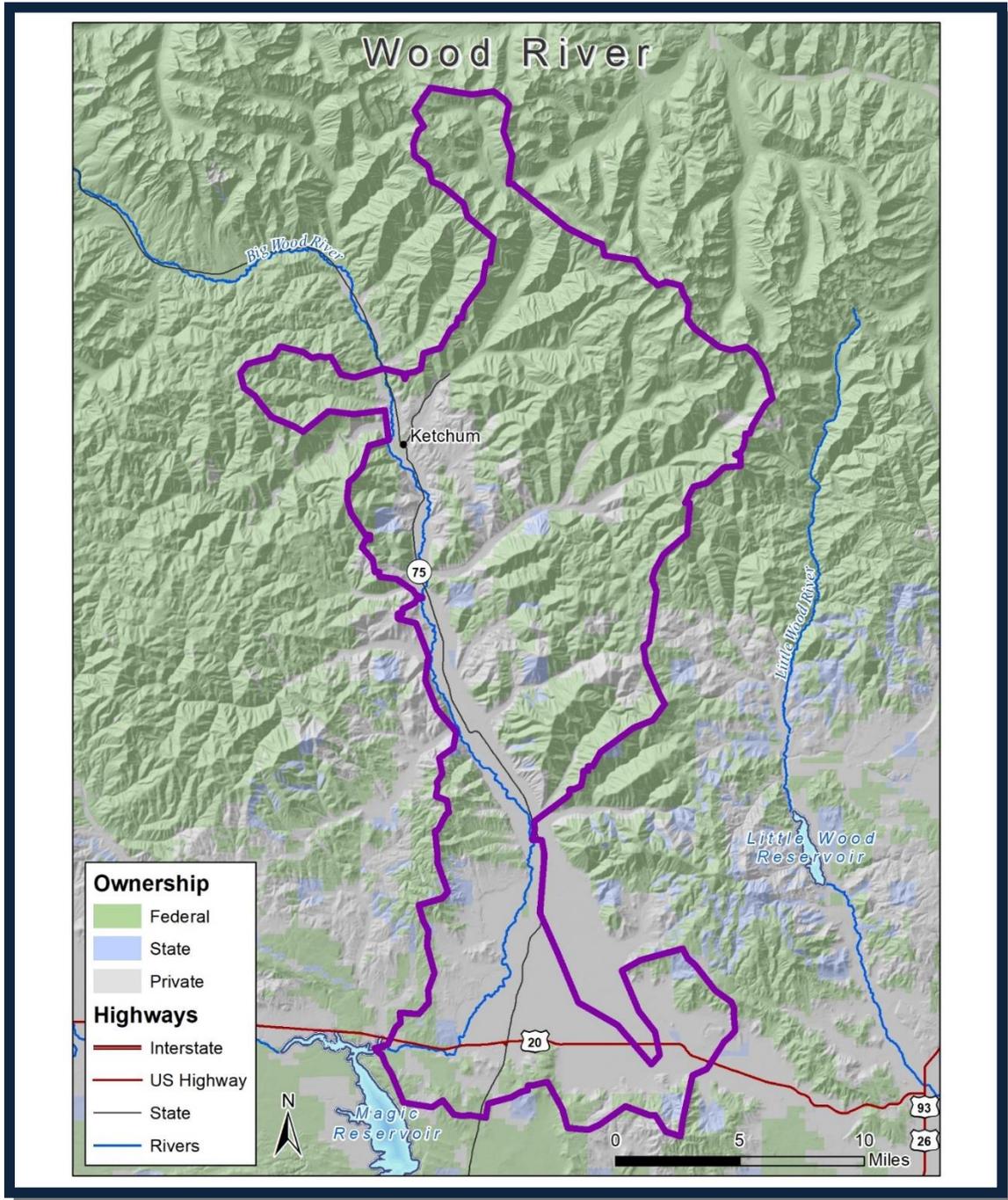
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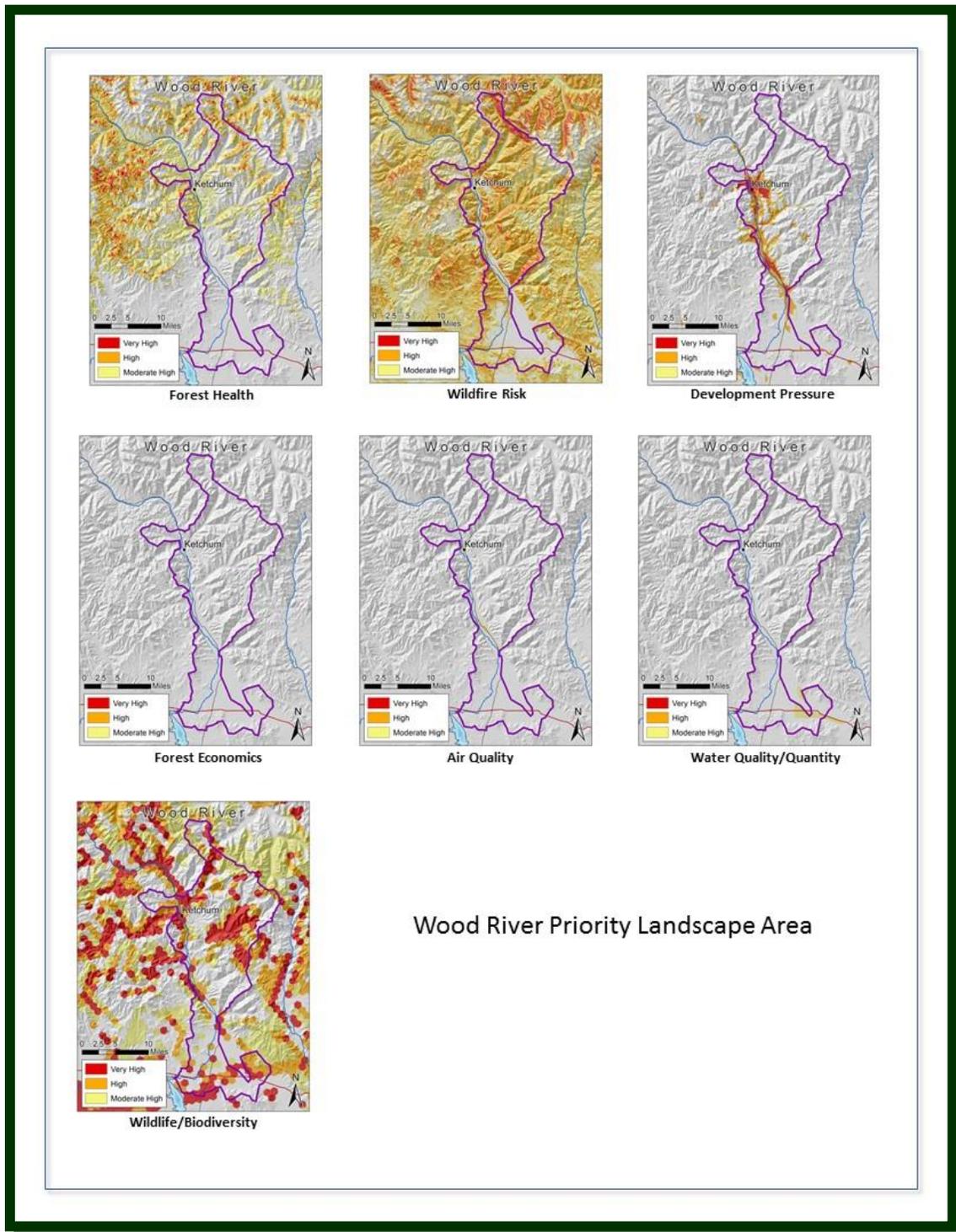
- County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Boise Forest Collaborative • Black Canyon RFPA

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Wood River Priority Landscape Area

The Wood River PLA encompasses Sun Valley to the north, US Highway 20 to the south, the east slopes of the Smoky Mountains in the west, and the Little Wood River Valley to the east, and significant parts of the Big and Little Wood Rivers. Primary population centers include the cities of Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue.





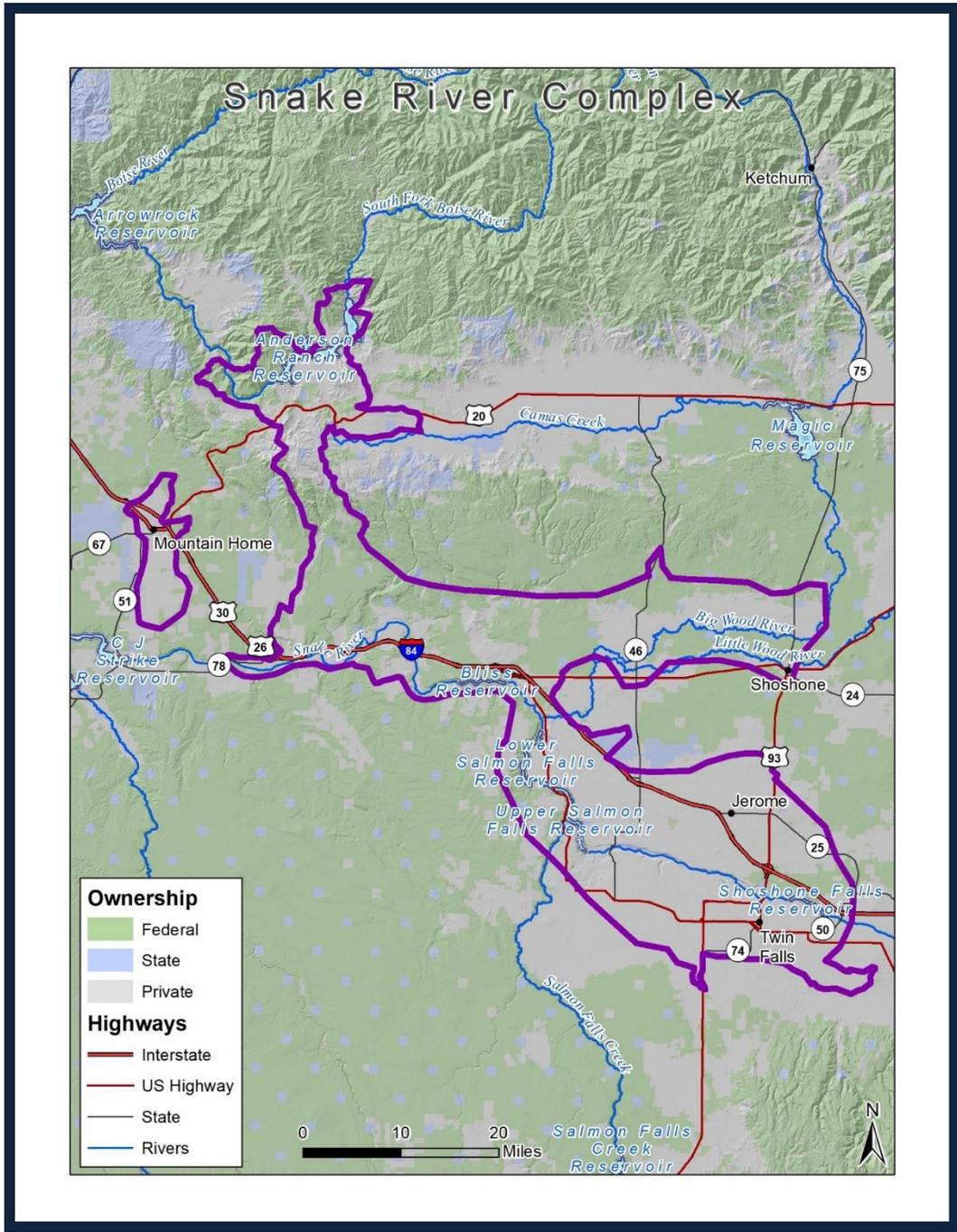
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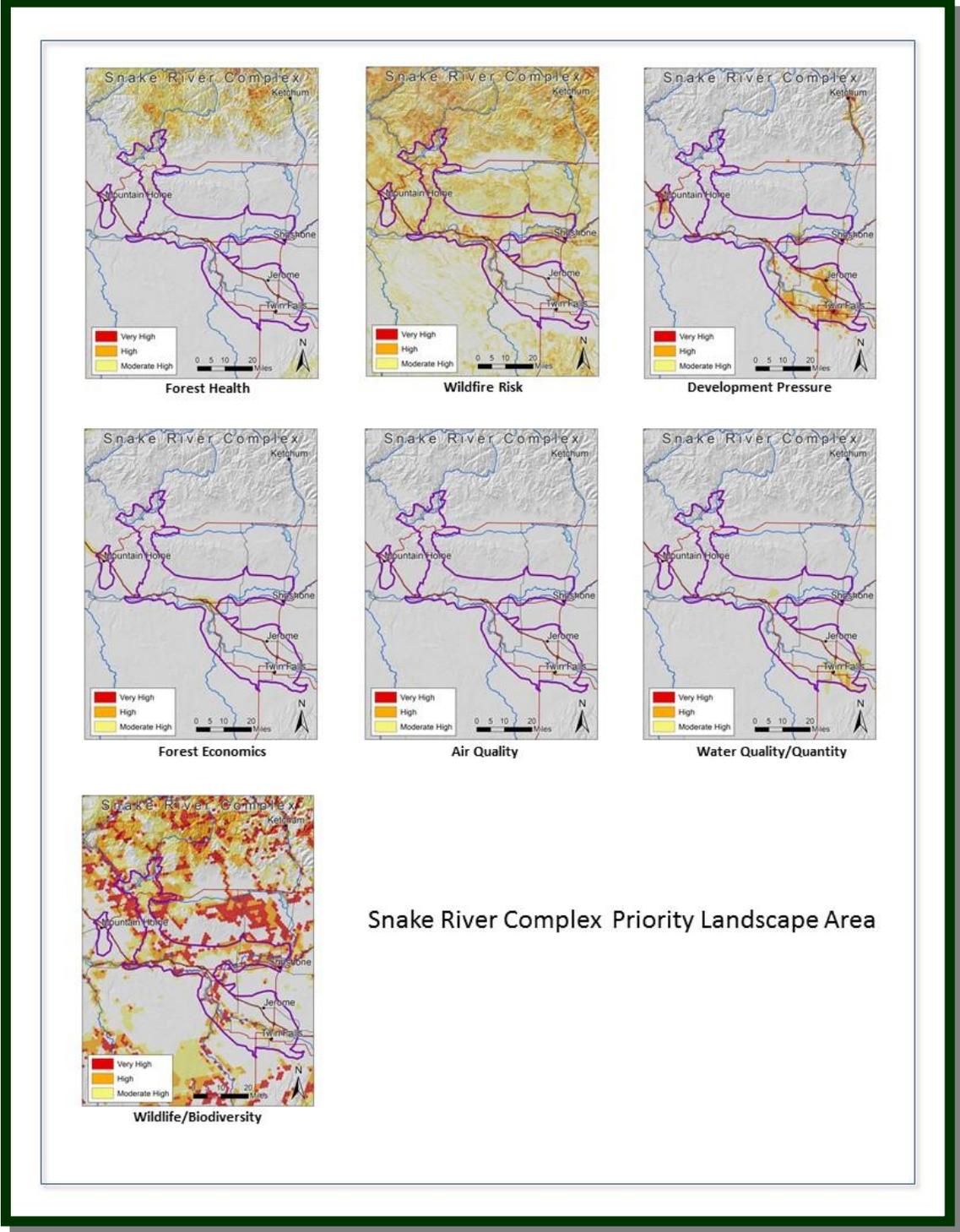
Wood River Resource Conservation and Development Council • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • National Forest Foundation • Wood River Land Trust • Sawtooth Valley Wildfire Collaborative • 5B Restoration Coalition

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Snake River Complex Priority Landscape Area

The Snake River Complex PLA encompasses the urban areas along the Snake River in central Idaho including Mountain Home, Gooding, Glens Ferry, Jerome and Twin Falls.





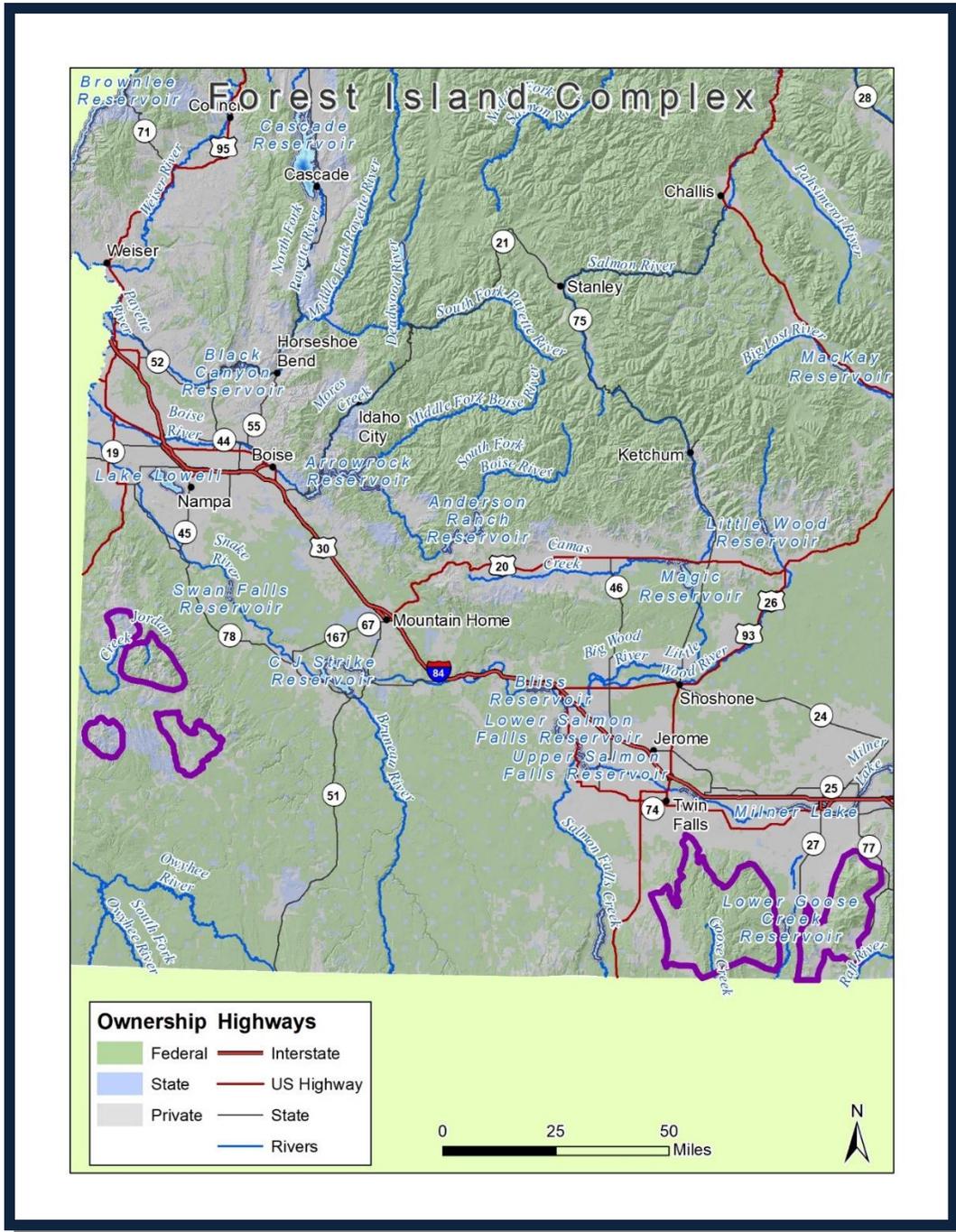
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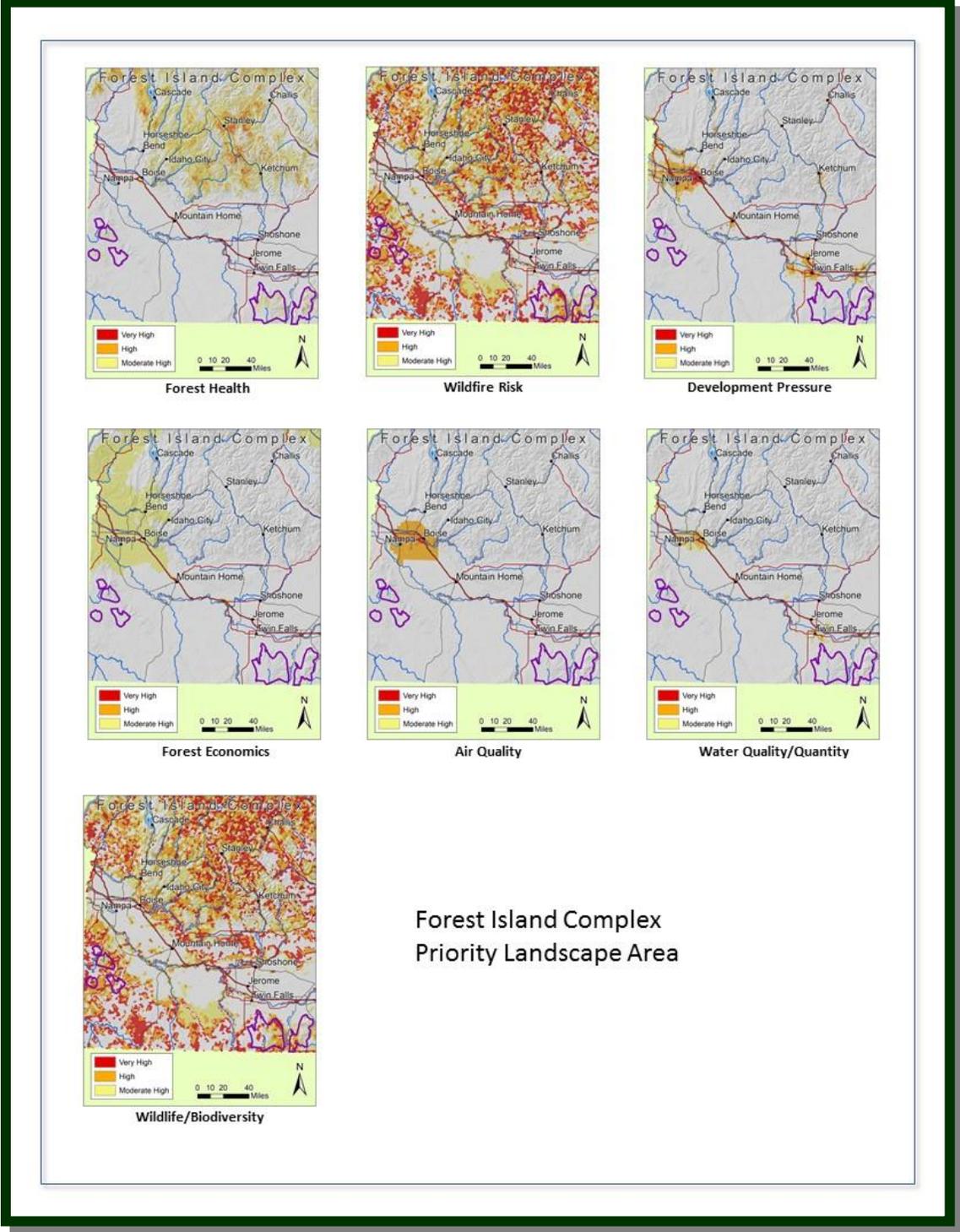
Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development Council • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • Notch Butte RFPA • Mountain Home RFPA

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Forest Island Complex Priority Landscape Area

The Forest Island Complex includes the isolated forested areas of the Owyhees and the Sawtooth National Forest southeast of Twin Falls.





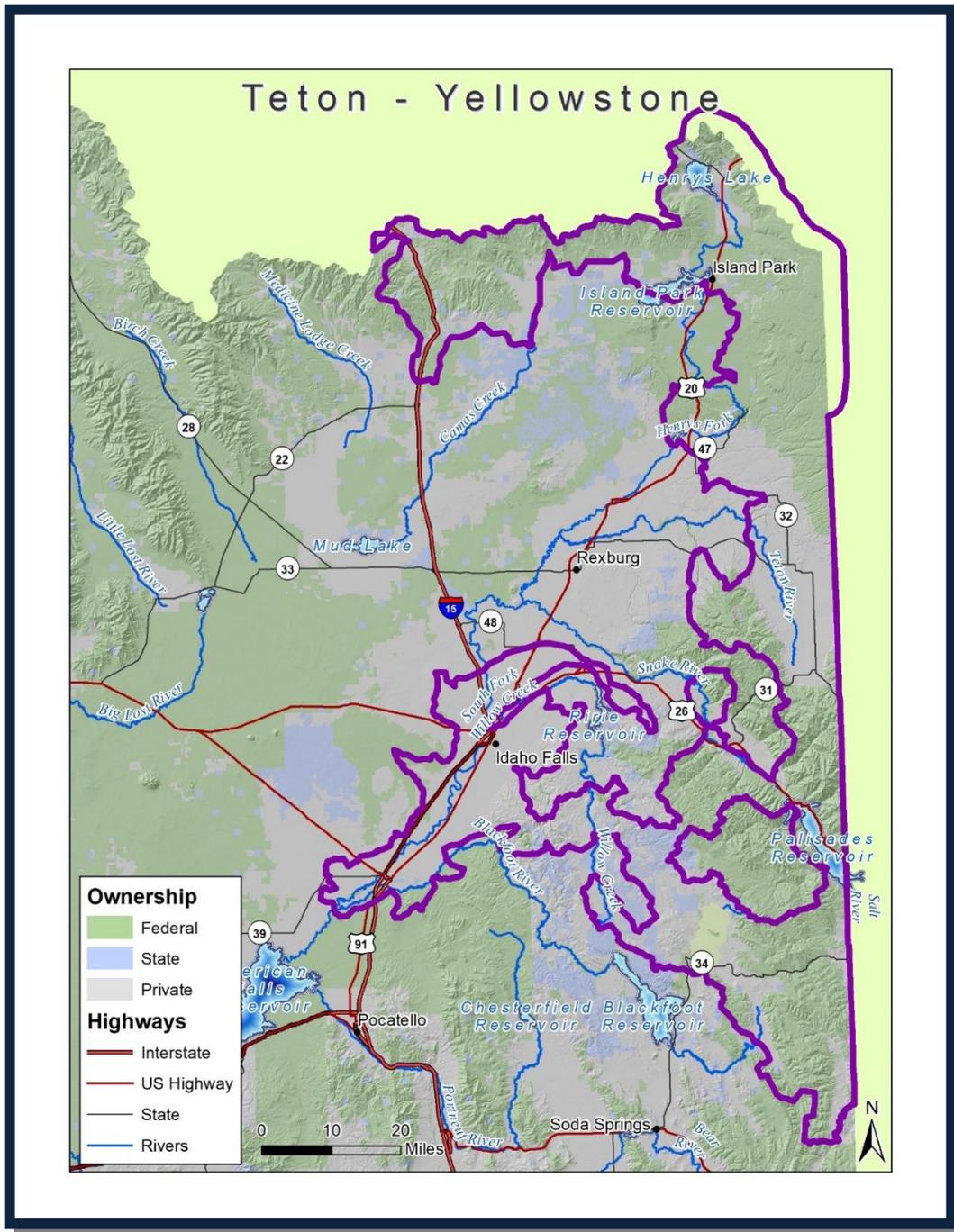
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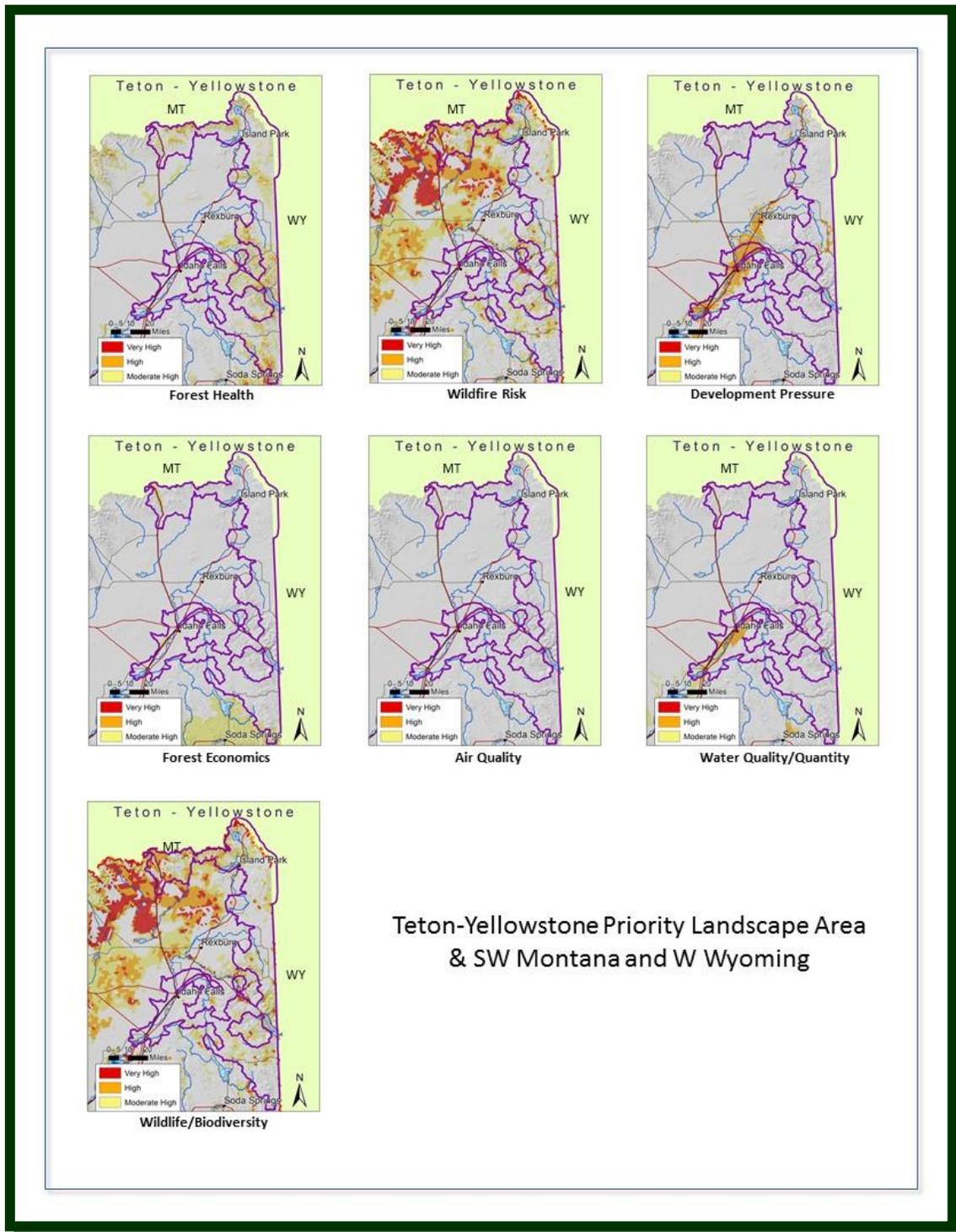
- Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development Council • County Wildfire Working Groups
- Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • Owyhee RFPA • Shoshone Basin RFPA

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Teton Yellowstone Complex Priority Landscape Area including SW Montana and W Wyoming

The Teton West Slope PLA encompasses the area along the Idaho and Wyoming border.





**Teton-Yellowstone Priority Landscape Area
& SW Montana and W Wyoming**

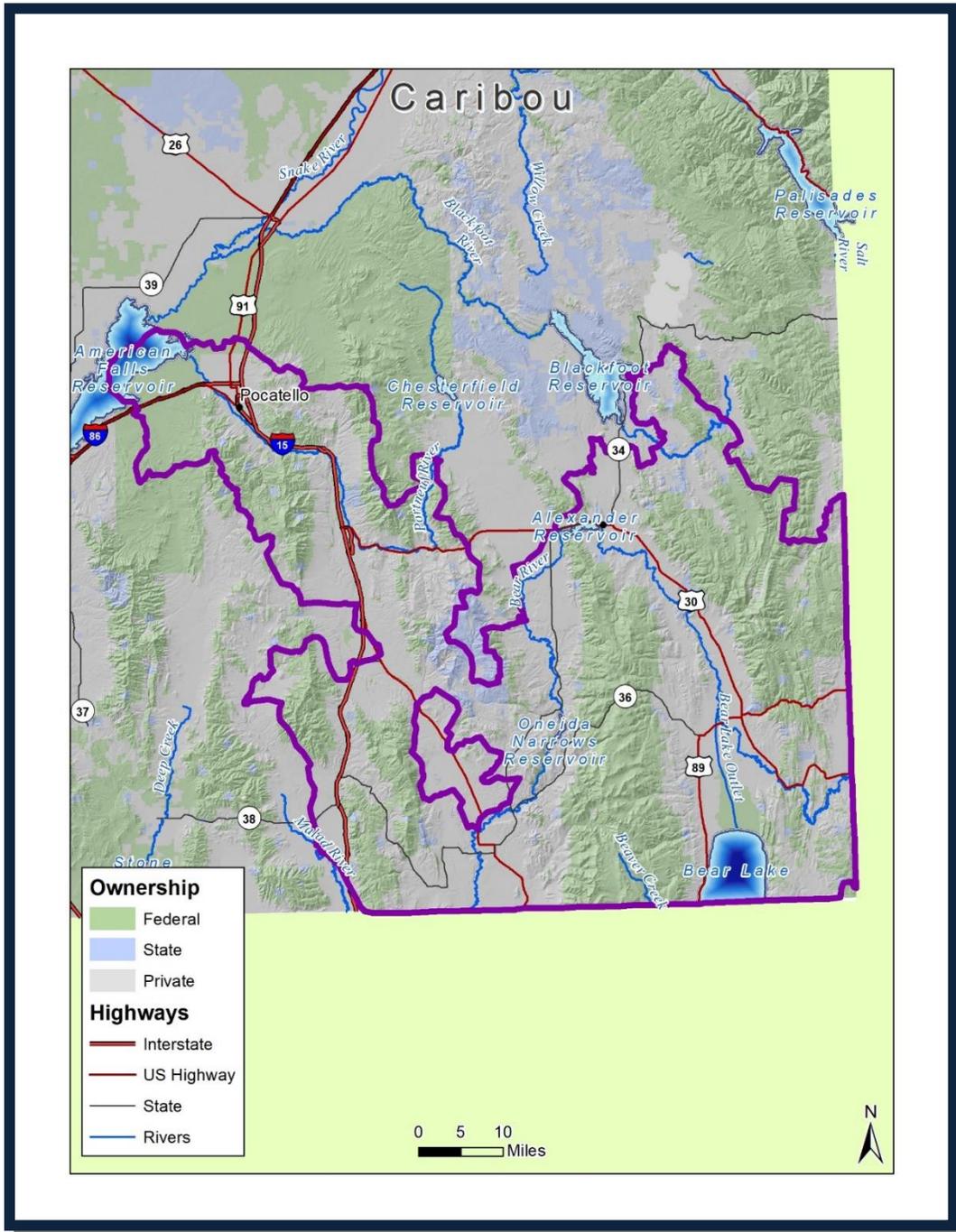
Resource Groups

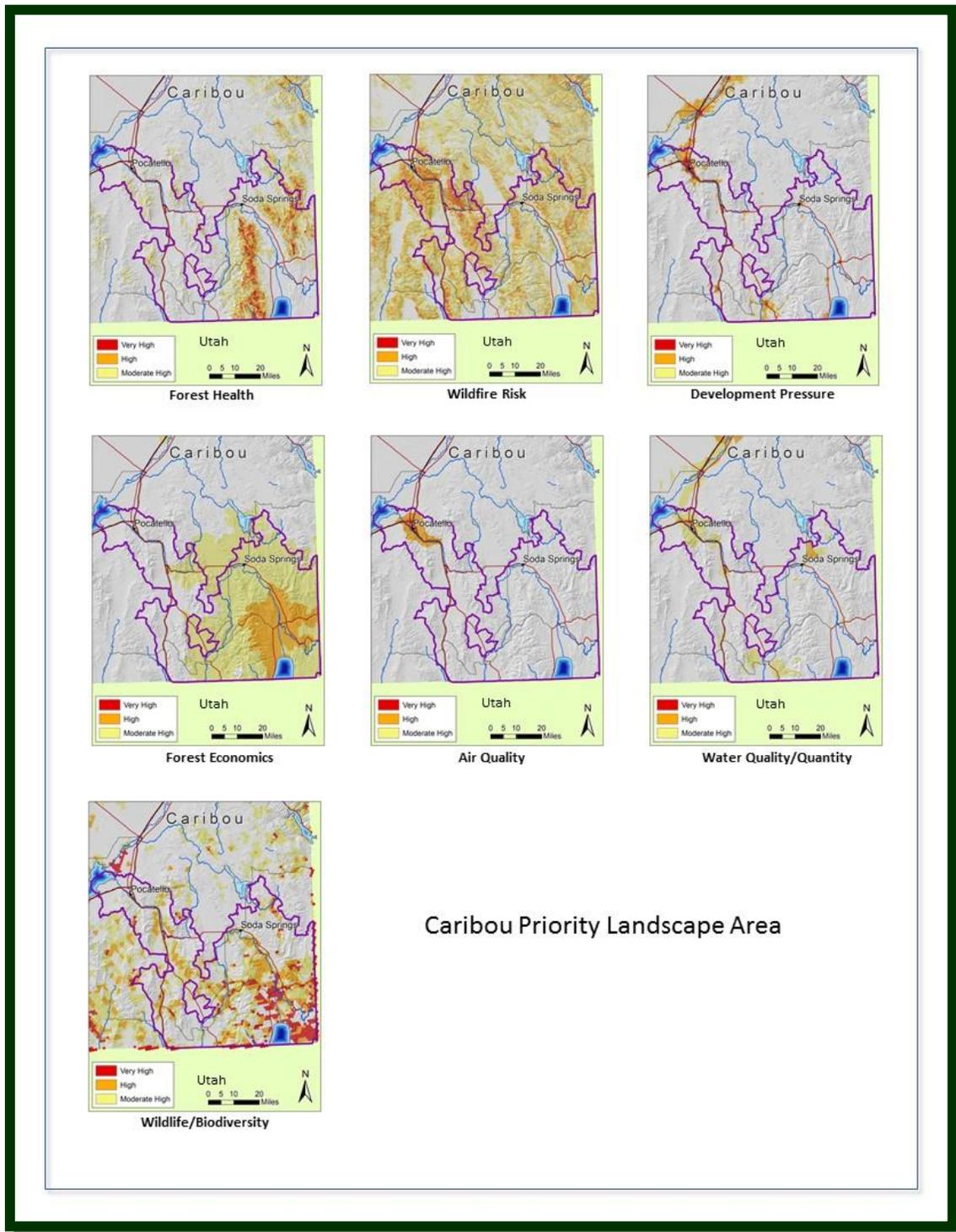
- Portneuf River Watershed Group
- County Wildfire Working Groups
- Watershed Advisory Groups
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Henry’s Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Henry’s Fork Watershed Council
- High Country Resource and Development Council
- Henry’s Creek RFPA
- Camas Creek RFPA
- Teton Regional Land Trust
- High Divide Collaborative
- Caribou Forest Initiative

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Caribou Priority Landscape Area

The Caribou PLA encompasses an area of the Snake River drainage from Palisades Reservoir to Bear Lake. The primary population centers are Pocatello, Soda Springs and Montpelier.





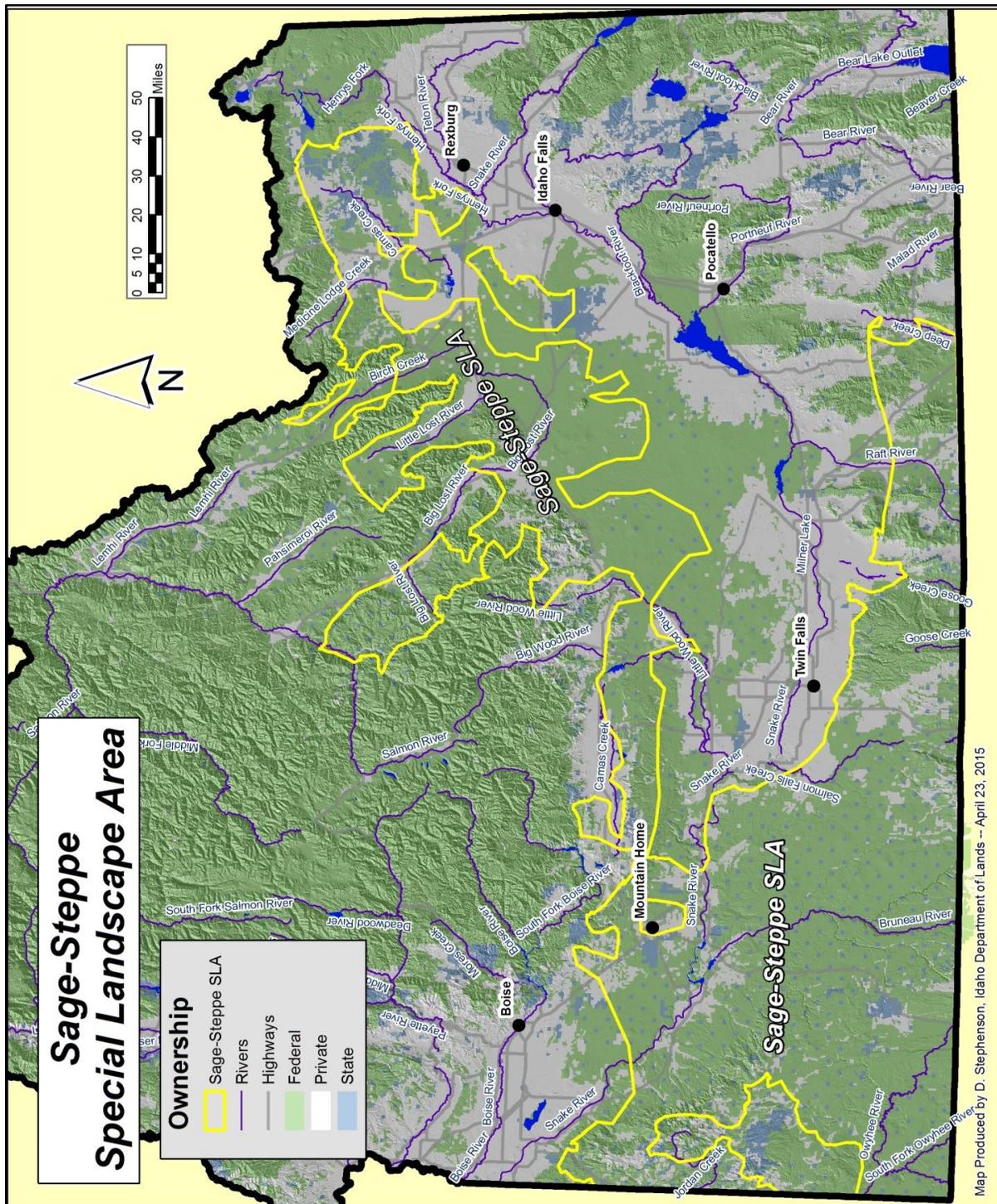
Resource Groups

Henry’s Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area • Henry’s Fork Watershed Council • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • Caribou Forest Initiative

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Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area

The Sage-Steppe Special Landscape Area (SLA) includes much of the rangeland areas in southern Idaho. While not included in the first iteration of FAP, issues surrounding the potential loss of this valuable ecosystem have gained increased attention. The boundaries of the Sage-Steppe SLA primarily follow the “core” and “important” habitat designation for the greater sage-grouse and include adjacent areas with significant departure from historic fire regimes and very high populations of invasive annual grasses.



Resource Groups

Pheasants Forestry • Mountain Home RFPA • Owyhee RFPA • Saylor Creek RFPS • Three Creek RFPA • Black Canyon RFPA • Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership • Southern Idaho Counties • County Wildfire Working Groups • Watershed Advisory Groups • Soil & Water Conservation Districts • BLM Fire and Invasive Species Assessment Teams (FISAT) • Owyhee RFPA • Saylor Creek RFPA • Three Creek RFPA • Shoshone Basin RFPA • Mountain Home RFPA • Henry's Creek RFPA • Camas Creek RFPA

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Chapter 6 – Statewide Goals for the Long-term Health of Idaho’s Forests

In Chapters 3, we identified strategies that address specific issues in the Priority Landscape Areas (PLA). The purpose of Chapter 6 is to identify issues that are affecting all or most of the PLA’s as well as many other forested areas in the State. We’ll also discuss the broader, causal factors that are affecting forested areas in the State—such as changing environmental and social factors that increase stress on forest systems (stressors).

Statewide Goals and Strategies

Several common strategies that could be applied to numerous PLAs were identified by the Stakeholders and Core Strategy Development Team.

STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

Goal 5: Partnerships and Inventory & Analysis – Use local groups and partnerships to develop and implement strategies for individual Priority Areas. Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) will work with local groups or partners to Improve information, identify and implement projects, identify and fill data gaps, explore/develop new tools and strategies for assessing conditions.

State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: State and Federal Land Management Agencies, NRCS, Local Governments, Professional Associations, other partners & groups

Goals 1 & 2: Education – Support and promote statewide forestry education and recognition programs including Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Idaho Firewise, Tree Farm, Tree City and Tree Line USA, and Arbor Day celebrations.

S&PF Programs: Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, State Fire Assistance, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Cities, Counties, Idaho Tribes (Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, Sho-Pai), ICFAC, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, IFPWG, IFSAC, private landowners, schools, USFS, UI Extension, utilities, and others

Goals 1, 2 and 3: Education – Assess, design and implement effective education and outreach efforts to reach targeted audiences—forestry professionals, forest landowners, community residents, and non-forestry stakeholders. Utilize existing conference, workshop, and demonstration events and explore new technologies to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Incorporate assessment tools that measure changes in behavior. Educational needs include youth education, conserving working forests for the future, forest benefits, and technical training for professionals.

Develop and utilize a framework for continual dissemination of information to all partners in education.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban &Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Other states, Idaho Tribes (Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, Sho-Pai), IFPC, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, universities and state extension programs, UI Extension, others

STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis and Treatments – Develop a statewide strategy to address climate change and anticipated impacts to forest conditions in Idaho. Include statewide inventory and analysis of conditions and targeted strategies across ownerships to improve resilience and to adapt to changing conditions.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: Associated Logging Contractors (ALC), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), IDL, NRCS, Idaho Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) organizations, Idaho Universities, S&PF Advisory Groups, USFS, UI, UI Extension, other partners & groups

Goal 1: Inventory & Analysis, Treatments, Partnerships, Managed Fire, Education – Continue strong partnership with County wildfire working groups. This current structure for implementing the National Fire Plan, Cohesive Strategy and Shared Stewardship efforts in Idaho is working well and will continue to facilitate effective planning and implementation of hazardous fuels treatments and restoration projects and enhance firefighting resources and public education.

S&PF Programs: State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: ALC, Counties IFPC, ILRCC, NRCS, Local Governments, UI, UI Extension

Goal 4: Marketing – Partner with the Idaho Forest Products Commission on statewide marketing to aggressively promote Idaho forest products within and outside of the state. Develop a culture where Idaho products are a preference with consumers (similar to potatoes).

S&PF Programs: Forest Stewardship

Stakeholders: ALC, BLM, IDC, IDL, IFPC, IFOA, IFA, industrial forest owners, NRCS, USFS, Economic Development Groups, other partners & groups

Goal 5: Inventory & Analysis and Partnerships – Work with adjacent states to align each state’s Forest Resource Strategies in border areas and develop a framework for cross-state implementation.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy

Stakeholders: ILRCC, States of Montana, Nevada, Washington, Wyoming, Utah and Oregon, USFS, UI

Goals 2 and 3: Education, Planning and Regulation/Policy – Educate local governments, planning and zoning commissions, and insurance companies about the implications of location and types of development on forest resources. Emphasis should include the ramifications of development on wildland fire fighting, wildlife, long-term timber supplies, and true costs to local governments.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BSCI, Cities, Counties, IDL, IFPC, PLT, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, UI Extension

Goals 2 and 3: Education, Planning and Regulation/Policy – Work collaboratively to strengthen community commitment to a healthy urban forest by encouraging the strategic planting of trees to mitigate stormwater runoff and increase energy savings. Educate local governments about the qualitative and quantitative benefits community forestry can provide and promote species diversity.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BSCI, Cities, Counties, IDL, IFPC, PLT, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, UI Extension

STATEWIDE Key Strategies include:

Goals 1, 2 and 3: Treatments, Partnerships, and Education – Capitalize on potential partnership efforts or funding opportunities for community forest health improvement. For example, transportation enhancement landscaping grants, a potential tree planting grant program through the Small Business Administration, an Energy Conservation Tree Planting grant program through the Department of Energy, and others.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Appropriate state and federal agencies, Arbor Day Foundation, Cities, Association of Idaho Cities, Association of Landscape Architects (ID/MT Chapter), ICFAC, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association, International Society of Arboriculture (PNW Chapter), utilities, and others

Goals 2 and 3: Access, Education, and Regulation/Policy – Continue to establish programs and funding mechanism designed to manage OHV use to help improve forest resources and provide for public access to forest lands. Work collaboratively to provide public education for responsible Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use and develop projects that effectively develop, maintain, improve and manage recreational OHV activities.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Urban & Community Forestry, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: BLM, Cities, Counties, IDFG, IDL, IDPR, IFPC, Idaho RC&Ds, Idaho Tribes, recreation interest groups, NRCS, PLT, USFS, UI Extension, and others

Goal 2: Education – Develop programs that emphasize outdoor education for youth. Develop partnerships with schools and stakeholder groups to develop more outdoor learning opportunities that focus on relevant issues addressed in the Forest Action Plan (FAP). This will address connecting people to the land and also build awareness and capacity for future work on all the issues as younger generations learn about and appreciate what is happening in their forests.

S&PF Programs: Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, Urban & Community Forestry, State Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Conservation Education

Stakeholders: Association of Idaho Cities, BLM, Cities, Counties, Idaho Counties Association, Idaho Dept of Education, IDL, IFPC, Schools, PLT, targeted agencies, organizations and groups, USFS, UI Extension

Goals 1, 2, and 4: Treatments and Partnerships – Design and implement stand treatments over landscape scales and provide a continued supply of wood material for existing and new markets. Treatments should address key local forest health issues.

Use existing partnerships and collaborative groups to accomplish strategy. These types of groups provide stewardship in a subarea of the State and it is important that they remain viable and supported.

S&PF Programs: Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: Collaborative groups, USFS, IDL, BLM, Tribes, NRCS, private landowners, RC&Ds, counties, cities, ALC, and others

Goal 2: Forest Conservation Incentives – Partner with land trusts and agencies to work collaboratively whenever possible to develop conservation efforts. Create economic incentives that increase hold values over sell values of priority forest areas.

S&PF Programs: Forest Legacy, Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and State Fire Assistance

Stakeholders: BLM, Cities, Counties, Collaborative groups, IDL, Idaho Tribes, Land Trusts, NRCS, private landowners, USFS, and many others

N – Identifies new strategies within the 2020 update

Acronyms Used:

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors
BLM – Bureau of Land Management
BSCI – Building Sustainable Communities Initiative
CWPPs – County Wildfire Protection Plans
CWWGs – County Wildfire Working Groups
FAP – Forest Action Plan
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council
IDFG – Idaho Dept of Fish and Game
IDL – Idaho Dept. of Lands
IDC – Idaho Dept of Commerce
IDPR – Idaho Dept of Parks and Recreation
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association
IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission
PLT – Project Learning Tree
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
S&PF – State and Private Forestry
UI – University of Idaho
USFS – US Forest Service
USFWS – US Fish and Wildlife Service
WUI – Wildland Urban Interface

Statewide Existing Plans and Resource Groups

Existing Plans

Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy Idaho Fire Plan • Forest Asset Management Plan • Forest Legacy Assessment of Need • County Wildfire Protection Plans • NRCS Rapid Watershed Assessment • Cumulative Watershed Effects Plans • DEQ Sub Basin Assessments and Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plans • Idaho Roadless Rule • Resource Conservation and Development Council Area Plans • Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) • State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Resource Groups

Idaho State Technical Committee • Idaho Departments of Fish and Game, Lands, Commerce, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, Environmental Quality, Office of Energy Resources • US Forest Service • Natural Resources Conservation Service • US Fish and Wildlife Service • US Bureau of Land Management • US Corps of Engineers • Association of Idaho Cities • Idaho Counties Association • Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts • State and National Professional Associations • Idaho Forest Products Association • Associated Logging Contractors • Intermountain Forest Association • Local Governments

Managing Stressors and Long-Term Health of Idaho's Forests

An important overarching goal is to manage for reduced stress and the long-term health of forest systems throughout Idaho. The threats identified in the Forest Action Plan Resources—forest health, uncharacteristic wildfire, development and recreation—are driven by changes in climate, economic conditions, demographics, and other environmental conditions and social values. The benefits—wood products markets, water quality and quantity, air quality, and wildlife and biodiversity—depend on maintaining ecological integrity and sustainable use of forests. Looking at the first level of these factors and working down can provide a framework for strategic, integrated approaches to restoration and protection.

Strategy

Within the next five years, as part of the FAP revision, convene a group of partners to look more broadly at causal factors and stressors to Idaho forests and identify even longer-term strategies to address these. These factors include changes in climate, demographics, economics, and social values. This effort can be looked at as a “Research and Development” arm of the FAP. The goal is to gain understanding of the higher-level “drivers” of forest stress and change and to be “out in front” with strategies for adaptation to these changes and mitigation of the impacts.

S&PF Programs: All

Stakeholders: All (a small group to take the lead with this effort and report to all Stakeholders)

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Appendices

Appendix A – Definitions

Agroforestry – An integrated approach of using the interactive benefits from combining trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock. It combines agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems.

American Tree Farm System – A network of more than 83,000 woodland owners sustainably managing 26 million acres of forestland. It is the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards.

Anadromous fish – Fish that live in the ocean mostly, and breed in fresh water (i.e. species of salmon).

Aquifer – An underground bed or layer of permeable rock, sediment, or soil that yields water.

Best management practices (BMPs) – A method or combination of methods that is an effective and practical way (technologically and economically) to prevent undesirable results.

Biodiversity – The number and variety of species of plant and animal life within a region.

Biomass (woody) – The trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in forest, woodland, or rangeland environments that are the byproducts of forest management.

Carbon sequestration – The process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots), soils, and wood products. Adopting certain agricultural and forestry activities can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere and sequester additional carbon.

Collaboration – A recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together in an intersection of common goals.

Collaborative group – A cooperative advisory group representing diverse interests organized to address land management issues and resolve conflicts within an identified area.

Conservation easement – A legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity while the land remains in private hands.

Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP) – A projection of wood product offerings within and between agencies within an investor landscape.

Development – The increase in the density of residential, commercial or industrial structures on the landscape. Loss of productive urban and rural forests to development is a critical issue in Idaho.

Ecological restoration – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. The concept of ecological restoration is forward-looking. Restoration focuses on reestablishing composition, structure, and ecological processes to maintain or increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in a dynamic, continually evolving world.

Ecosystem – An interacting system of living organisms, soil and climatic factors. Forests, wetlands, watersheds, ponds, prairies and communities are ecosystems.

Ecosystem Services – Benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, air, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.

Environment – The complex surroundings of an item or area of interest, such as air, water, natural resources, and their physical conditions (temperature and humidity).

Erosion – The wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice or other geologic agents and by such processes as gravitational creep.

Forest – A large area where trees grow close together. Forests can be in rural and urban areas.

Forest Action Plan (FAP) Forest Resource Assessment – A geospatial analysis of the conditions and trends of forests in Idaho, based upon seven key issues and 24 sub-issues categorized into threats to and potential benefits from forests. The assessment uses best available data for informing these issues and is an objective method for identifying areas within the state where focusing resources will have the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities.

Forest diversity – Different types of forest communities and numbers of species within forests.

Forest health – A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; soil, air, and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustained flow of goods and services for people.

Forest loss – The conversion of forestland to some other land use.

Forest structure – The complexity of the vertical and horizontal forest.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – An independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC certification is a voluntary, market-based tool that supports responsible forest management worldwide. FSC certified forest products are verified from the forest of origin through the supply chain.

Forestry – The practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests for human benefit.

Fragmentation – The process by which large continuous tracts of forestland are broken into smaller, disconnected units.

Greenhouse gasses (GHGs) – Gasses, including methane, chlorofluorocarbons and carbon dioxide, which act as a shield that traps heat in the earth's atmosphere and thought to contribute to global warming.

Habitat – The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.

Hardwoods – Dicotyledonous trees, usually broadleaf and deciduous.

Harvesting – Felling, loading and transporting forest products, round wood or logs.

Hazard fuels reduction – Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the potential spread or undesirable effects of fire.

Herbaceous – A non-woody type of plant that grows along the forest floor and has leaves and stems which die down at the end of the growing season to the soil level.

Herbicide – Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent the growth of or destroy terrestrial or aquatic weeds.

Hydrologic Unit Code – A series of numbers in a nested hierarchy that are used to identify a watershed size and location. The greater number of digits in the identification number, the smaller the area. The first two digits identify the region of the United States. An eight-digit hydrologic unit code typically identifies a basin and averages around 703 square miles. A 14-digit code is typically the smallest watershed identified.

Impervious – Surface that is not passable for water.

Invasive species – Species, which is often non-native, whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) – A multi-resource plan that lays out strategies for achieving unique landowner objectives and sustaining forest health and vigor.

Landscape scale – The scale which is relevant to the phenomenon under consideration and which is of sufficient size where actions have a real, meaningful and persistent affect.

Native species – A species that is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question

Noxious weeds – The 64 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by Idaho state law

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) – As used in this report, any type of vehicle which is capable of driving on and off paved or gravel surfaces for recreation. OHV used in designated areas is a popular and supported form of recreation. OHV use in undesignated areas can degrade forests.

Ozone – As used in this document, an unstable, poisonous allotrope of oxygen (O₃) produced in the lower atmosphere by the photochemical reaction of certain pollutants such as volatile organic compounds.

Parcelization – The change in ownership patterns when larger forested tracts are divided into smaller parcels owned by several owners.

Prescribed fire – Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area. The application produces the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

Priority Landscape Area – For this document, an area within which significant portions rated as high and very high priority by the Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment, and which share similar vegetative, geographic and management characteristics.

Regeneration – Process of replacing old trees with young through harvest or other means.

Restoration – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Thinning and prescribed fire are examples of vegetation management tools used to accomplish forest restoration.

Riparian – Pertaining to the banks of a stream, river or pond.

Runoff – Portion of precipitation that flows from a drainage area or in open channels.

Sedimentation – process that deposits soils, debris and other materials in bodies of water.

Seedling – A small, young tree, less than 3 years old.

Silviculture – The science and art of controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of forests.

Stakeholders – With respect to this document, Federal, state and local agencies, organizations and individuals that influence or are otherwise interested, involved, or affected by an Idaho statewide forest resource management strategy.

Stand Structure – A description of the distribution and representation of stand age and stand size classes within a stand. The distribution of trees in a stand, which can be described by species, vertical or horizontal spatial patterns, size of trees or tree parts, age, or a combination of these.

State and Private Forestry – An organization of the USDA Forest Service that partners with states to deliver technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation’s state, tribal, non-industrial and community forests.

Softwood – Coniferous trees, usually evergreen, having leaves that are needles or scale like.

Soil – Unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth, serving as a natural medium for the growth of plants.

Stream – A body of concentrated flowing water in a natural low area of land.

Sustainability – The capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; integrates environmental, social, and economic concerns and outcomes.

Sustainable forest management – Management in an attempt to attain balance between society's increasing demands for forest products and benefits, and the conservation and maintenance of forest health and diversity.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – An independent, non-profit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving a sustainable forestry certification program. The standard for certification is based on principles and measures that promote sustainable forest management and consider all forest values.

Thinning – Cutting or removing certain trees to allow those remaining to grow faster. Usually a commercial operation in younger stands that brings an income to the landowner while improving a forest.

Treatments – Management or harvesting activities applied to a forest stand to alter the condition of the stand. Treatments may or may not generate revenue.

Tree – Woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 3 inches diameter at breast height, a more or less definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet (at maturity).

Uncharacteristic wildland fire – An increase in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control compared to that which occurred prior to European settlement.

Urban and Community Forestry – The care and management of tree populations in communities (urban and Community forests) as a critical part of the urban infrastructure and for the purpose of improving the urban environment.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – Organic chemical compounds which have significant vapor pressures, and which can affect the environment and human health. Higher temperatures and sunlight are factors that increase the production of VOCs.

Watershed – Area within which all runoff collects into a single stream or drainage system, exiting through a single mouth or outlet.

Wetland – Transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated with water for long enough periods to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – areas where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland.

Wildfires – Uncontrolled fires occurring in forestland, brushland and grassland.

Wood products – Materials developed from use of the hard, fibrous substance (wood) which makes up the greater part of the trunks and limbs of trees. Solid wood products include lumber, veneer and plywood, furniture, poles, piling, mine timbers, and posts; and composite wood products include laminated timbers, insulation board, hardboard, and particleboard. Woody biomass (see biomass) is also considered a wood product.

Appendix B – Acronyms

ALC – Associated Logging Contractors	IFOA – Idaho Forest Owners Association
AON – Assessment of Need (Forest Legacy Program)	IFSAC – Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
ATFS – American Tree Farm System	ISFPWG – Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
BLM – Bureau of Land Management	LFSP – Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan
BSCI – Building Sustainable Communities Initiative	NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
CFAA – Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act	NFP – National Fire Plan
CROP – Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol	NIPF – Non-Industrial Private Forestlands
CWCS – Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy	NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
CWPP – County Wildfire Protection Plan	OHV – Off-Highway Vehicle
CWWG – County Wildfire Working Group	PLA – Priority Landscape Area
ESA – Endangered Species Act	RC&D – Resource, Conservation and Development Council
FAP – Forest Action Plan	RFPA – Rangeland Fire Protection Associations
FSC – Forest Stewardship Council	S&PF – State and Private Forestry
ICFAC – Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council	SLA – Special Landscape Area
IDFG – Idaho Fish and Game	T&E – Federally listed threatened and endangered species
IFPC – Idaho Forest Products Commission	USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
IDL – Idaho Department of Lands	USDOI – United States Department of Interior
IDC – Idaho Department of Commerce	USFS – United States Forest Service
IDPR – Idaho Parks and Recreation	VOC – Volatile Organic Compound
IFA – Intermountain Forest Association	WUI – Wildland Urban Interface

Appendix C – 2020 Stakeholders / Contributors

Joe Adamski.....Bureau of Land Management
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Gerry Bates..... South Idaho Community Forestry Assistant
Michael Beaudoin.....Idaho Department of Lands
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Rita Chandler.....US Forest Service, Co-Op Fire Region 1
Eileen Clegg..... Association of Idaho Cities
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Appendix D – State and Private Forestry Performance (Reporting) Measures

The following performance (reporting) measures are specific to **State and Private Forestry programs** and intended to demonstrate outcomes and communicate the value of federal investments in state, private and other non-federal landscapes. The table also shows how they address the following three national priorities.

1. **Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses**
2. **Protect Forests from Threats**
3. **Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests**

Note that not all of the National Priorities apply to every strategy or every landscape.

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
Goal 1: Idaho's Forests are diverse and resilient to climatic changes and other natural and unique stresses		
Inventory & Analysis	1 & 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of population living in communities with inventories and active forest management plans 2. Number and percent of communities with a CWPP or equivalent 3. Acres of forest areas in high priority areas with an active Forest Stewardship Management Plan
Treatments	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of acres of forest areas managed sustainably as per a current Forest Stewardship Management Plan. 2. Number of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems that are (1) moved toward desired conditions and (2) maintained in desired conditions 3. Total # of acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels on state and private lands through State Fire Assistance per Community Wildfire Protection Plans 4. Number and percent of forest acres restored and/or protected from invasive and native insects, diseases and plants 5. Number and percent of population in communities actively managing community trees 6. Acres and percent of high priority habitat areas where S&PF activities are protecting, conserving and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat 7. Acres of connected forest resulting from S&PF investments 8. Acres/percent of priority areas vulnerable to climate change where S&PF activities contribute to resilient forests able to adapt to climate change 9. Acres and percent of high priority forests treated with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to maintain or restore to a fire-adaptive state
Managed Fire	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acres and percent of high priority forests treated with prescribed and natural fire to maintain or restored to a fire-adaptive state
Partnerships	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total value of resources leveraged through partnerships (monetary and in-kind) 2. Qualitative: Collaborative group and partnership success stories
Education	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of at-risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity via more trained/certified fire fighters and/or crews 2. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&PF and state forestry agency environmental literacy programs and activities 3. Percent of population within cities served by professional forestry staff 4. Number of people engaged in environmental stewardship activities as part of an S&PF program

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
Goal 2: <i>The ecosystem benefits that Idaho forests provide are identified, maintained and enhanced</i>		
Inventory & Analysis	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities designed to contribute to improved water and air quality 2. Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities result in energy conservation 3. Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity
Planning	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: examples of how canopy has been integrated into ecosystem management plans (air and water quality, energy, stormwater, etc.) 2. Qualitative: Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans or Community Forestry Management Plans that identify use of forests for ecosystem benefits
Treatments	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity 2. Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities designed to contribute to an improvement in air quality 3. Population of communities benefiting from S&PF activities that result in energy conservation 4. Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat 5. Potential carbon sequestered through implementation of forest management practices on private forest lands 6. Qualitative: Develop case studies to tell the story of dollars saved per year using strategic tree planting for conservation.
Education	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of at-risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity via more trained/certified fire fighters and/or crews 2. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&PF and state forestry agency education activities focusing on ecosystem services of forests and trees 3. Qualitative: examples of how ecosystem benefits are understood and supported by non-forestry stakeholders to address issues—ex.: air and water quality managers, utilities, developers, etc. 4. Increase in canopy cover over public and private lands in communities over time
Access	3	N/A
Goal 3: <i>Forestlands with the highest benefits are identified, protected and enhanced</i>		
Inventory & Analysis	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acres and percent of high priority forest areas identified
Forest Conservation Incentives	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual and cumulative acres of High priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are protected from conversion 2. Acres and percent of priority habitat areas where S&PF activities are protecting, conserving, and enhancing wildlife and fish habitat 3. Acres of connected forest resulting from S&PF investments

Goals & Strategies	National Priority Addressed	State and Private Forestry Performance Measures
<i>Goal 4: Forest ecosystems are resilient to human activities</i>		
Inventory & Analysis	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: Examples of how early detection, rapid response (EDRR) has found problems leading to eradication (example: gypsy moth in Idaho)
Treatments	2 & 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: examples of developments following BMPs 2. Qualitative: Integration of BMPs into local governmental development policies 3. Acres of land treated per recommendations in CWPPs
Education	2 & 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of people who annually participate in FS and S&PF and state forestry agency education activities focusing on ecosystem services of forests and trees 2. Qualitative: Lower number of forest practices violations 3. Qualitative: Examples of incentives that help reduce adverse impacts from development; communities adopting development incentives; developers that follow BMPs voluntarily because they recognize the benefit to their business
Regulation/Policy	2 & 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: Examples of ordinances or policies that protect forestlands from development 2. Qualitative: Examples of ordinance or policies that codify BMPs
<i>Goal 5: Forest-based wood products markets are economically vibrant and sustainable</i>		
Inventory & Analysis	1 & 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify number of landowners, acres and volume metrics that enable market development
Treatments	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of total jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) sustained or maintained in the economy annually due to S&PF investments. 2. Qualitative: Develop success stories highlighting job creation/retention. 3. Qualitative: Provide statistics on state/private forestland (especially NIPF) contribution to forest products sector.
Marketing	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: Examples of marketing efforts and their impact on forest products markets
<i>Goal 6: Idaho has an integrated framework for implementing the Idaho Forest Action Plan</i>		
Inventory & Analysis	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Qualitative: Descriptions of new information and tools that have been identified and developed which will aid Idaho in fulfilling the intent and purpose of S&PF Redesign and these strategies
Partnerships	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many options

Appendix E – 2008 Farm Bill Requirements for Forest Action Plans

As noted in the Introduction, the 2008 Farm Bill and a “redesign” of State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs required that each state develop a Forest Action Plan, including a resource assessment and strategy document, across all ownerships as a requisite to receive federal funding for S&PF programs. The specific 2008 Farm Bill requirements for these are listed below with a brief explanation of how each was fulfilled.

Statewide Forest Resource Assessment Includes:

The conditions and trends of forest resources in the state..... Yes No

The process used to determine the most critical issues either threatening forests or for which forests provide benefit—and a geospatial analysis of conditions and trends relative to these issues—are described in detail in the Idaho Forest Action Plan (FAP) Resources Assessment: Issues, Data, Methodologies, Process and Maps.

The threats to forest lands and resources in the state consistent with national priorities Yes No

Strategies that address the threats to forestlands and resources—as well as the potential benefits forests provide—are consistent with the three national priorities. The list of goals and strategies and how each cross-walks to the national priorities are identified in Chapter 3.

Areas or regions of the state that are a priority..... Yes No

Any multi-state areas that are a regional priority Yes No

The Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment models seven key issues and 24 sub-issues describing threats to and benefits from forests to determine the highest priority areas within the state (See SAFR document). The final FAP map was further refined to identify 15 specific Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs) within Idaho and six multi-state PLAs as described in Chapter 2. Specific Maps on each PLA is displayed in Chapter 5. Maps of the multi-state PLAs are incorporated into the adjacent State PLA.

Forest Action Plans Include:

Long-term strategies to address threats to forest resources in the state* Yes No

Description of resources necessary for state forester to address state-wide strategy* Yes No

**Can be presented in a strategies matrix with columns for (a) programs that contribute, (b) resources required, (c) national objective it supports, and (d) performance measure(s) that will be used for each strategy.*

Implementation of strategies are identified in Chapter 4. The most relevant of these goals and strategies for—and how they apply to—each PLA are listed in Chapters 3. Chapter 5 contains lists of partners where resources may be available to address FAP Strategies. State and Private Forestry Program performance (reporting) measures for each goal and strategy and which National Strategies each supports is listed in Appendix D.

Stakeholder Groups Coordinated with for the Statewide Assessment and Strategy:

Note: this could be identified in the body of the documents or as an appendix.

State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (required)..... Yes No

Forest Stewardship representatives from the Idaho Lands Resource Coordination Council actively participated in subcommittees and group reviews provided technical expertise, data and editorial review of the FAP Assessment and Strategies documents. See appendix F for additional details.

State Wildlife Agency (required)..... Yes No

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game represented this agency on both the Core Assessment and Strategy Development Teams. His assistance was invaluable in providing the best available wildlife data and how best to model these data to identify areas in the state where forestry actions will have the greatest benefit to wildlife, and in developing appropriate strategies.

State Technical Committee (required)..... Yes No

A number of State Technical Committee members participated in the development of the State Forest Assessment and provided valuable feedback on formulation of the Strategies document.

Lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program (if not the state forestry agency) (required) Yes No

The Idaho Department of Lands is the lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program. Legacy Program Specialist Karen Neorr participated as a member of both the Core Assessment and Core Strategy Development teams.

Applicable Federal land management agencies (required)..... Yes No

The USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service (State and Private Forestry and the National Forest System) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are the primary Federal forestland management agencies in Idaho. Each had representatives who actively participated on the Core Assessment and Strategy teams.

Other Plans Incorporated in Statewide Assessment and Strategy:

Community wildfire protection plans (required) Yes No

Community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs) are integrated into strategies within each of the PLAs.

State wildlife action plans (required) Yes No

Data from the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)—including key wildlife and fish habitat and State Wildlife Focal Areas were included in the geospatial FAP Resource Assessment. A detailed description of the modeling used is included in the Assessment document. The CWCS is incorporated herein by reference. It is one of many plans that should be consulted as actions and projects are developed from the listed strategies for each PLA. It is directly referenced in many strategies throughout the PLAs.

Other Yes No

Process for identification of Forest Stewardship Program priority areas is included as appendix j.

Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (check the one box below that applies)

Previously approved AON remains unchanged and is incorporated by reference

The Legacy Assessment of Need (AON) is incorporated by reference

OR

Required AON components are included in the Assessment and Strategy (Note: AON elements will be evaluated outside the assessment and strategy certification process)

It was the intent of the Idaho Department of Lands that the Idaho Forest Action Plan will serve as the Legacy Assessment of Need, all AON components are included in the Assessment and Strategy.

Throughout the development of the Idaho Forest Action Plan, the Idaho Department of Lands engaged a broad group of stakeholders in addition to the Core Assessment and Strategy Teams. The larger stakeholder committee met many times over the past two years to provide guidance, review progress and recommend changes or modifications. The result is an Idaho Forest Action Plan that represents a broad array of stakeholders committed to working together to protect, conserve and enhance Idaho’s forests.

Appendix F – Moving to a Single Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council Structure (White Paper)

December 12, 2011

Issue Overview

The last few years have brought about a considerable change in state funding and program direction for Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) private forestry and fire bureau programs. State general fund reductions of 25% have required IDL to reduce bureau staffing levels, and to revisit how program assistance is delivered throughout Idaho. The 2008 Farm Bill formalized a shift in direction for USDA Forest Service (FS) State & Private Forestry (S&PF) programs (Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Urban Forestry, Forest Health, State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance) that IDL delivers in partnership with the FS. Every state has been directed to prepare a State Assessment of Forest Resources and Statewide Forest Resource Strategy, collectively referred to as the state Forest Action Plan (FAP), with an emphasis on combining local, state and federal program resources to address forestry concerns collaboratively in identified Priority Landscape Areas. The Idaho FAP will help landowners and managers better recognize and support opportunities where working together and leveraging limited resources can address multiple critical issues of statewide importance. It is an objective of the FAP to serve as a springboard toward a more strategic, comprehensive and coordinated approach to forest management that addresses critical forest issues.

To address the strategic opportunities identified in the FAP, and in light of fiscal and programmatic changes, the Director of IDL asked agency staff to review their program delivery methods and consider opportunities to integrate resources and optimize program outcomes. Coordination of three separate advisory councils requires considerable staff time and fiscal resources, so IDL staff was tasked with investigating a more efficient and collaborative model for seeking input from partners. An IDL Oversight Group, consisting of representatives from each of the three advisory councils and IDL staff, was assembled to address the Director's request. To ensure federal program requirements are being addressed, IDL has discussed this effort with regional and national level FS S&PF managers.

Current Advisory Council Structure in Idaho

Historically, S&PF programs have operated independently, with specific program staff hired to oversee each, and program-specific advisory councils for Forest Stewardship (Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee), Fire-National Fire Plan (Idaho Fire Plan Working Group) and Urban Forestry (Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council). The advisory councils are in a transition between focusing on what the original program direction mandated and the new direction as discussed above. The primary focus, past and present, of the three IDL advisory councils in supporting IDL program efforts follows:

Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG)

Formed in 2002, this group's primary focus to date has been hazard fuels reduction across all ownerships statewide. There has been an evolution from working with individual landowners to working with county government to coordinate county-wide activities. ISFPWG efforts have included extensive time working with counties to develop Community Wildfire Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council

Protection Plans. ISFPWG currently focuses on coordinating different state and federal agency funding for hazardous fuels treatment (HFT) work. The group works with all lands that have potential for wildfire, not just forestlands. Communication and coordination amongst various local, state and federal agencies and organizations are key focus areas for this group.

Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (IFSAC)

Formed in the early 1990s, this group's primary focus was providing advice to IDL regarding cost-share program priorities. In recent years, program cost-share has shifted from Forest Service (FS) funded programs initiated

through IDL to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funded programs with IDL involvement being primarily as a Technical Service Provider. Currently, this group's primary focus is information sharing within the committee, and outreach to non-industrial forest landowners, encouraging active management of private forestlands. They also provide project review and funding recommendations for the Idaho Forest Legacy Program.

Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council (ICFAC)

Formed in the early 1990s, this group's primary focus was outreach to cities of all sizes and included providing advice to IDL regarding cost-share programs that were available to cities statewide. These cost-share programs have been eliminated due to reduced federal program funding. Currently, this group's primary focus is communication and information sharing within the committee, Arbor Day and Tree City USA promotion and recognition for cities statewide and encouraging projects that demonstrate and promote the value of urban trees.

Recommended Changes: Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council

An IDL Oversight Group consisting of representatives from each of the three advisory councils and IDL staff was assembled to review how these groups currently operate and provide recommendations for how the groups might work more cooperatively to address FAP priorities. After reviewing the purpose of each existing advisory council and discussing the new direction of S&PF program delivery mandated through S&PF Redesign, the Oversight Group determined that the focus points of these three groups have a great amount of overlap and that there is great potential to achieve effective statewide program outcomes more strategically through consolidation into a single Coordinating Council. All three groups place a high priority on communication and information sharing, and this can continue to be achieved through including representation from each group in the single Coordinating Council structure. This concept closely follows the strategy identified in the FAP.

Coordinating Council Representation

The Oversight Group recognizes the importance of being strategic about the number of Coordinating Council members that can function efficiently and effectively. The following representation from the existing advisory councils is recommended with the understanding that additional interest groups may be represented through appointment to subcommittees.

USDA Forest Service – S&PF, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA National Forest Systems (fire staff), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Fire Chiefs, State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Homeland Security, University of Idaho Extension Forestry, University or College - urban planning or arborist program, Idaho Association of Counties, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Chapter – American Planning Association, Tribes, private forest landowners (Idaho Forest Owners Association), Idaho Tree Farm Committee, Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts or a conservation organization, Association of Consulting Foresters – Inland Empire Chapter, City forester, Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association or green industry, and a utility company representative.

Coordinating Council Operating Protocol

- Council Leadership. A “Co-Leader” concept is recommended, consisting of an IDL staff member and a Council member. The Council member serves as Chairperson and leads meetings. The IDL staffer coordinates agendas, meeting arrangements, etc.
- Subcommittees will be appointed as needed but will not be “standing.” Forest Legacy applications and grants review (Competitive and Western Fire grants) may be handled by the full Council.
- IDL staff (program managers and bureau chief) will participate in meetings but will not serve as voting members.
- A simple charter outlining Council purpose and operating procedures will be developed by the Coordinating Council membership.

- IDL will follow the current nomination process used for advisory councils to appoint members from identified interests.
- 6-12 months after formation, IDL will review the effectiveness of the Coordinating Council to assure program needs are being addressed.

Specifically, the Oversight Group identified the following focus areas to be addressed:

- ✦ Assist the State Forester with multi-objective strategic planning through prioritization and implementation of the FAP. This includes developing annual and long-term statewide action plans focusing on priority resource issues rather than individual programs, monitoring and reviewing accomplishments, refining and prioritizing actions, informing and involving stakeholders, and incorporating new information and filling data gaps. Overarching focus should be “Healthy Forests for all Idahoans.”
- ✦ Facilitate sound land management across all land ownerships through enhanced interaction between communities, private landowners, and local, state and federal agencies and related interest groups. Clarify roles of partners and collaborative groups.
- ✦ Assist the State Forester in reviewing policy issues. Develop position papers in collaboration with relevant constituencies and interest groups.
- ✦ Identify and coordinate funding opportunities to strategically address FAP objectives. Coordinate competitive grants, National Fire Plan grants, Forest Health grants, and other non-S&PF funding opportunities. Include partner/stakeholder involvement and leverage.
- ✦ Advise the State Forester on use of non-grant base level program funds. Review Forest Legacy Program Proposals and recommend applications for National competition.

Appendix G – Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program

Purpose and summary:

Reflecting the overarching goals of the national program, Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program (FLP) recognizes that it is first necessary to keep forests intact in order to protect the values and benefits that society derives from those lands. Inherent in Congress’s authorization of the Forest Legacy Program is the recognition that most forested lands in the United States are held by private landowners who face growing financial pressure to convert those lands to uses that will forever remove them from the forested land base. The demand for residential and commercial developments is the primary cause of this conversion.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to help prevent conversion of important forestlands to non-forest uses. Private forestlands provide important economic and environmental values that will be irretrievably lost if the land use is changed. Idaho participates in the state grant option allowing the State of Idaho to purchase conservation easements that transfer development rights on privately owned lands to the state. The nature of the rights that the landowner is willing to forego is negotiated for each easement. Once the provisions are agreed upon and the easement closed, the Idaho Department of Lands is responsible for assuring that the terms of the easement are met. Through such arrangements, landowners derive financial benefits and ensure that the enrolled lands remain as forests forever.

Program Goals and Objectives:

In accordance with the federal Forest Legacy Program, the purpose of Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important forest areas and the public values they provide. Within this broad context, specific goals for the program are identified below.

Goals

- Identify high priority forestlands in Idaho
- Maintain the cultural and economic stability of rural communities by conserving *working* forest landscapes
- Conserve and/or enhance water quality
- Maintain unique forest habitats
- Protect and provide habitat for native fish, wildlife and plants
- Protect the social values that forests provide such as public recreation, scenic, cultural and historical values

To achieve program goals and further leverage Idaho’s conservation efforts, the following objectives will be used to direct the Forest Legacy Program in Idaho.

Objectives

- Promote wildlife connectivity between undeveloped areas
- Focus efforts on projects with large areas of contiguous forest (>100 acres)
- Promote sustainable forest management practices (Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP), Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), etc.)
- Contribute to a large-scale organized conservation plan (Yellowstone to Yukon, Idaho’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, etc.)
- Protect Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species habitat
- Complement previous investments in forestland conservation

The goals and objectives outlined above provide a framework for Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program and will be achieved through continued and effective implementation of the program. Furthermore, they can be used as a tool to measure Idaho’s success in meeting its overall purpose, to maintain forested landscapes.

Project Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program, submitted applications must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. Project must meet one or more of Idaho’s FLP goals.
2. Project must be within an Idaho Priority Landscape Area as identified in FAP.
3. Project must be sponsored by a state agency or a land trust organization.
4. Project must be privately owned (non-federal, State, or local government).
5. Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
6. Project must include a minimum 25% cash or in-kind, non-federal match. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total program costs (acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses). A landowner that does not meet the match percentage as stated in their application by the closing date of a Forest Legacy acquisition will not be eligible to apply for FLP funding until the non-federal match has been met.
7. Project must be 75% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover or formally had such tree cover and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
8. Landowners agree to follow federal FLP requirements and implementation rules including:
 - a. Accepting an appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
 - b. Managing the property by means of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
 - c. Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, and/or conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property.
 - d. Allowing annual monitoring for conservation easement (CE) compliance.

Criteria for Ranking Individual Project Proposals:

Eligible project proposals (see Project Eligibility Requirements above) will be ranked independently by the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) and/or Idaho Forest Legacy subcommittee⁶ members according to the criteria outlined below. These criteria generally reflect those used by the National Review Panel.

1. **Importance:** These criteria evaluate the economic, environmental and social impacts potentially conserved by the project. Higher scores are given to projects that possess a majority of the attributes listed below and at a broad scale of significance:
 - a. Forestry: Are the forest resources managed for sustainability? Does the property contain characteristics to sustain a productive forest?
 - b. Economic Benefits: Does the project provide timber and/or non-timber revenue to the local, regional or national economy?
 - c. Threatened or Endangered Species: Does the site have threatened or endangered species and/or designated habitat?

⁶ The Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council (ILRCC) will assume advisory responsibilities for all of Idaho’s State and Private Forestry Programs beginning in 2012. See [page 26](#) and [Appendix F on pages 79-81](#) for more information.

- d. Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities: Does the site contain unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat?
- e. Water Supply and Watershed Protection: Does the property have a direct relationship with protecting the water supply or watershed? Does the property contain important riparian area, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, or sensitive watershed lands?
- f. Public Access: Will protection of the property maintain or establish access by the public for recreation?
- g. Scenic: Is the site located within a viewshed of a government designated scenic feature or area?
- h. Historic/Cultural/Tribal: Does the site contain features of historical, cultural, and/or tribal significance?

2. **Threatened**: These criteria evaluate the likelihood of a project’s conversion to non-forest uses. Project’s that demonstrate a greater threat of conversion are scored higher.

Legal Protection: What is the degree of legal protection that currently exists on the property?

Land/Landowners Circumstances: What are the land and/or owner circumstances (property held in an estate, aging landowner, future property by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, landowner has received purchase offers, land has an approved subdivision plan, etc.)?

Adjacent Land Use: What are the adjacent land use characteristics such as existing land status, rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, etc.?

Ability to Develop: Are there physical attributes of the property that will facilitate conversion, such as access, buildable ground, zoning, slope, water/sewer, electricity, etc.?

3. **Strategic**: These criteria evaluate a project’s relevance or relationship to conservation on a broader scale. Projects that significantly enhance conservation strategies at a broad scale are scored higher.

- a. Conservation Strategy: How does the project fit within a larger conservation plan, strategy, or initiative?
- b. Compliment Protected Lands: Is the project strategically linked to already protected lands (past FLP projects, Federal, State, other conservation lands, etc.)?

4. **Prior FLP funding**: Has the landowner been awarded FLP funding (regardless of amount) for two consecutive years? An owner that has been awarded FLP funding for two consecutive years, cannot be ranked the #1 project the third year unless it is the sole application recommended for funding from the State of Idaho.

Additionally, the following criteria will **enhance** application rating:

- a. Completing five or more of the following items will significantly affect a project’s score: preliminary appraisal, signed option or purchase and sales agreement, cost-share commitment, held by a third party at the request of the State, draft Conservation Easement, LFSP, mineral survey and title report.
- b. A 50% or greater non-federal match
- c. Letters of support from various public and private entities (NGO’s, non-profit, government officials, etc.)

Project Prioritization

Individual Forest Legacy applications go through a rigorous and highly competitive review process. First, the above criteria are used to score and develop a prioritization list. Proposals with higher scores rank higher. The State’s

priority list, with approval from the ILRCC⁷, is then forwarded to the Forest Service regional committee. This regional committee uses similar ranking criteria, the national core criteria, to score and rank project applications from the Western United States. Projects are then submitted to the Washington Office where the National Review Panel will use the same national core criteria to develop a prioritized national project list. The regional and National Review Panels are not bound by a State’s priority ranking of projects and may rank projects out of a State’s priority order. Finally, the outcome from the National Review Panel will be a ranked and prioritized list of FLP projects for submission to the Office of Management and Budget for consideration in the President’s Budget. Projects highest on the list will receive top priority for funds as they become available.

Comparison of Priority Landscape Areas and Legacy Assessment of Need Areas

The original Idaho Legacy Program Assessment of Need (AON) was developed without a geospatial analysis. Rather, within the latitude provided by the National Forest Legacy Program, the state adopted a broad definition of forests and considered threats to and values from them. Legacy eligible areas were selected on a county scale, and only included counties with more than 10,000 acres of non-federal forestlands. However, included within the map of final legacy eligible areas are ineligible lands (Federal and State lands) and areas that are not forested or which cannot support forests. The areas included as “Legacy eligible” were divided into six regions at a county scale. These were prioritized through a numerical process using information representing acres of private forestland, population change, land use change, threatened and endangered species candidates, dispersed recreation, and information on forest markets.

The Idaho Statewide Forest Resource Assessment—described in detail in the Idaho Forest Action Plan, part 1—used a geospatial analysis of these same issues, but also included the additional critical issues of water quality, air quality, and uncharacteristic wildland fire risk. The assessment was completed on a HUC 6, or sub-watershed scale using 30-meter or finer data. Through a far more robust stakeholder involvement process than occurred during development of the original AON, the statewide datasets that best informed these issues were selected and an analytical methodology developed which led to the identification of Priority Landscape Areas—areas in which focusing federal and partner resources will address multiple high-priority issues. It should be emphasized that the resulting map only determines those areas in which Legacy projects are eligible. As has been done from the start of Idaho’s Legacy Program, an in-depth review, analysis and ranking of specific projects as described above will continue.

The Forest Legacy Areas map (from the original AON) and the map of Priority Landscape Areas look quite different at first glance (see next page). Yet both maps contain lands that are ineligible for Forest Legacy Projects. These include state and federal lands, and areas that lack or are incapable of supporting forests. To compare the two maps, these ineligible areas must be excluded. The two maps on [page 87](#) represent a more accurate comparison. In both maps, ineligible lands by ownership, non-forested areas and areas that receive less than 10” annual precipitation (unable to support forests) have been masked out. Even though the process for developing these maps was different, the maps themselves are remarkably similar.

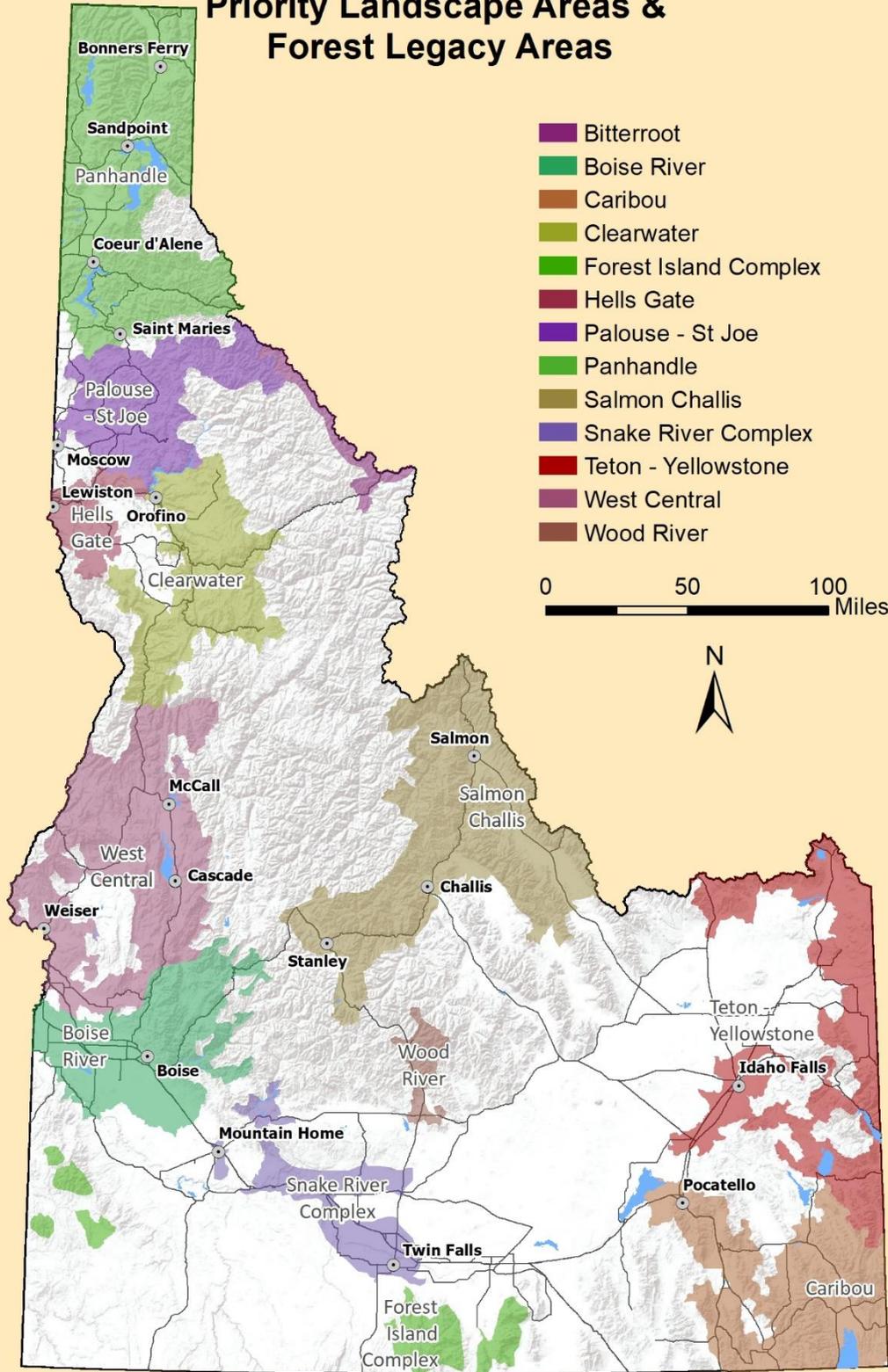
With the integration of the Legacy Program into the Idaho Forest Action Plan, the six original Legacy Areas identified in Idaho’s September 2002 Assessment of Need are being dissolved and replaced by the 12 Priority Landscape Areas identified in the 2010 Idaho Forest Action Plan. Priority Landscape Areas Legacy Eligible Lands will be the working map for determining initial Legacy project eligibility. It is our belief that the areas identified on this map best reflect statewide priorities.

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⁷ ibid

Idaho's 2020 Forest Action Plan

Priority Landscape Areas & Forest Legacy Areas



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Appendix H – Cohesive Strategy Guiding Principles and Core Values

Early in the planning process, stakeholders involved in developing the Cohesive Strategy collaboratively established the following guiding principles and core values for wildland fire management to guide fire and land management activities:

- Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity.
- Sound risk management is the foundation for all management activities.
- Actively manage the land to make it more resilient to disturbance, in accordance with management objectives.
- Improve and sustain both community and individual responsibilities to prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfire through capacity-building activities.
- Rigorous wildfire prevention programs are supported across all jurisdictions.
- Wildland fire, as an essential ecological process and natural change agent, may be incorporated into the planning process and wildfire response.
- Fire management decisions are based on the best available science, knowledge, and experience, and used to evaluate risk versus gain.
- Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies support one another with wildfire response, including engagement in collaborative planning and the decision-making processes that take into account all lands and recognize the interdependence and statutory responsibilities among jurisdictions.
- Where land and resource management objectives differ, prudent and safe actions must be taken through collaborative fire planning and suppression response to keep unwanted wildfires from spreading to adjacent jurisdictions.
- Safe aggressive initial attack is often the best suppression strategy to keep unwanted wildfires small and cost down.
- Fire management programs and activities are economically viable and commensurate with values to be protected, land and resource management objectives, and social and environmental quality considerations.

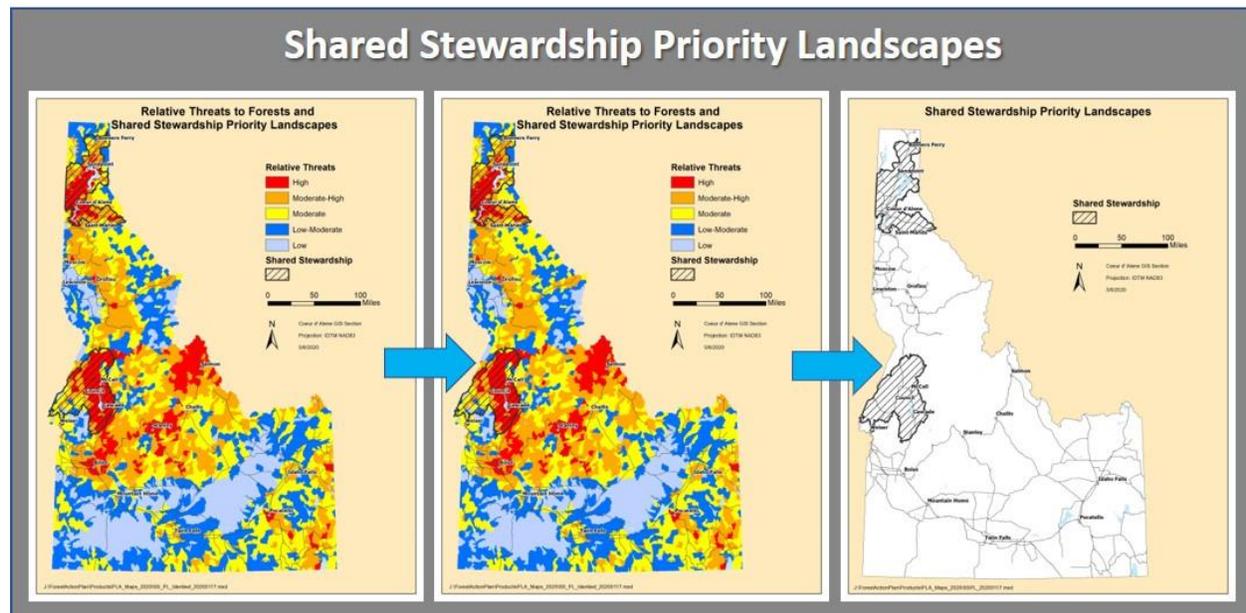
Appendix I – Idaho Shared Stewardship

Idaho Shared Stewardship Agreement

On December 18, 2018, the State of Idaho executed a Shared Stewardship Agreement with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Forest Service Northern and Intermountain Regional Foresters. In alignment with the USDA’s Shared Stewardship initiative, the purpose of this agreement was to foster collaborative work, between the State and the USDA Forest Service (USFS) to accomplish mutual goals, further common interests, and effectively respond to the increasing suite of challenges facing western forested landscapes—including the implementation of hazardous-fuels-reduction projects and efforts to improve forest-health conditions across broad Idaho landscapes. Specifically, this agreement stated goals of 1) identifying two meaningful landscape-scale project areas (priority landscapes), one in north Idaho and one in south Idaho; and 2) working together to double the annual acres treated through active management on national forests and promote cross-boundary work on other lands within priority landscapes.

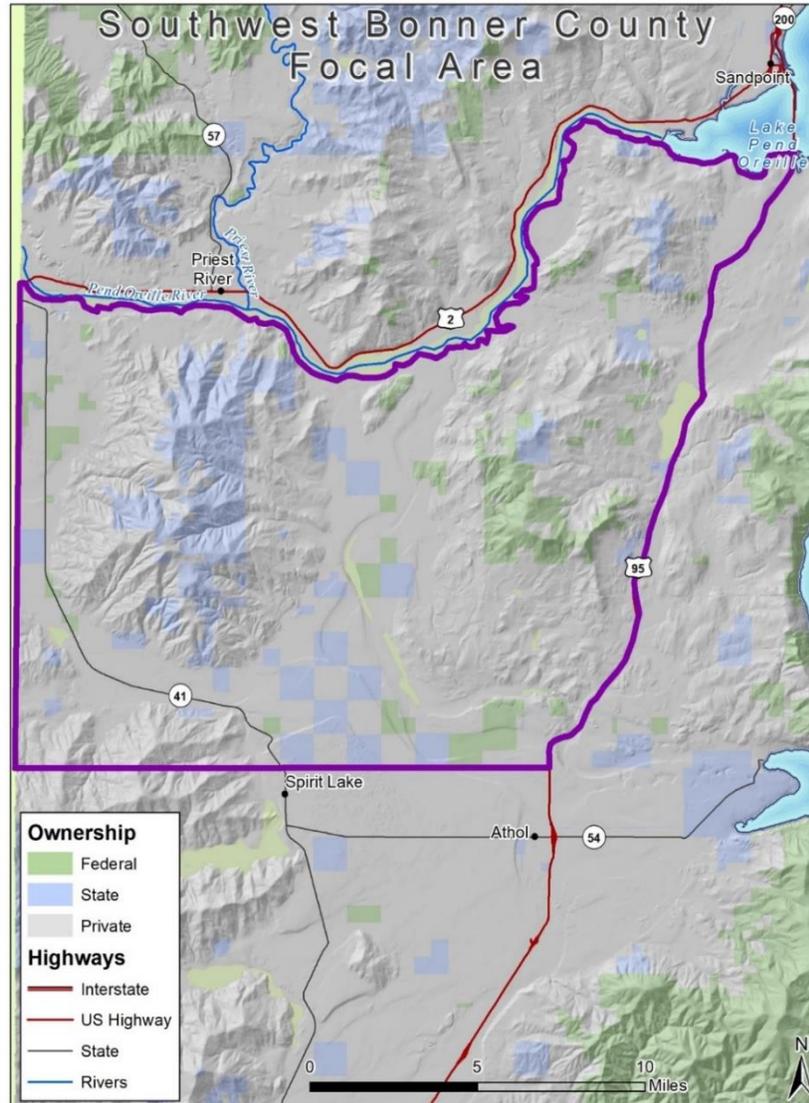
Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes

The foundation of defining Idaho’s first two Shared Stewardship Priority Landscapes (SSPLs) were the risk analyses depicted in this updated Forest Action Plan’s (FAP) geospatial resource analyses. These composite heat maps provided a starting point for the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and USFS leaders to begin discussions on where these two SSPLs would be located. Integrated into this decision were additional similar forest-health, fire-risk and vegetation-condition geospatial data from the USFS and focused, fire-risk modeling outcomes from the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. These larger, two-million acre SSPLs were then spatially defined collaboratively by leadership at IDL and at the USFS Regional Offices and National Forest Supervisor Offices.

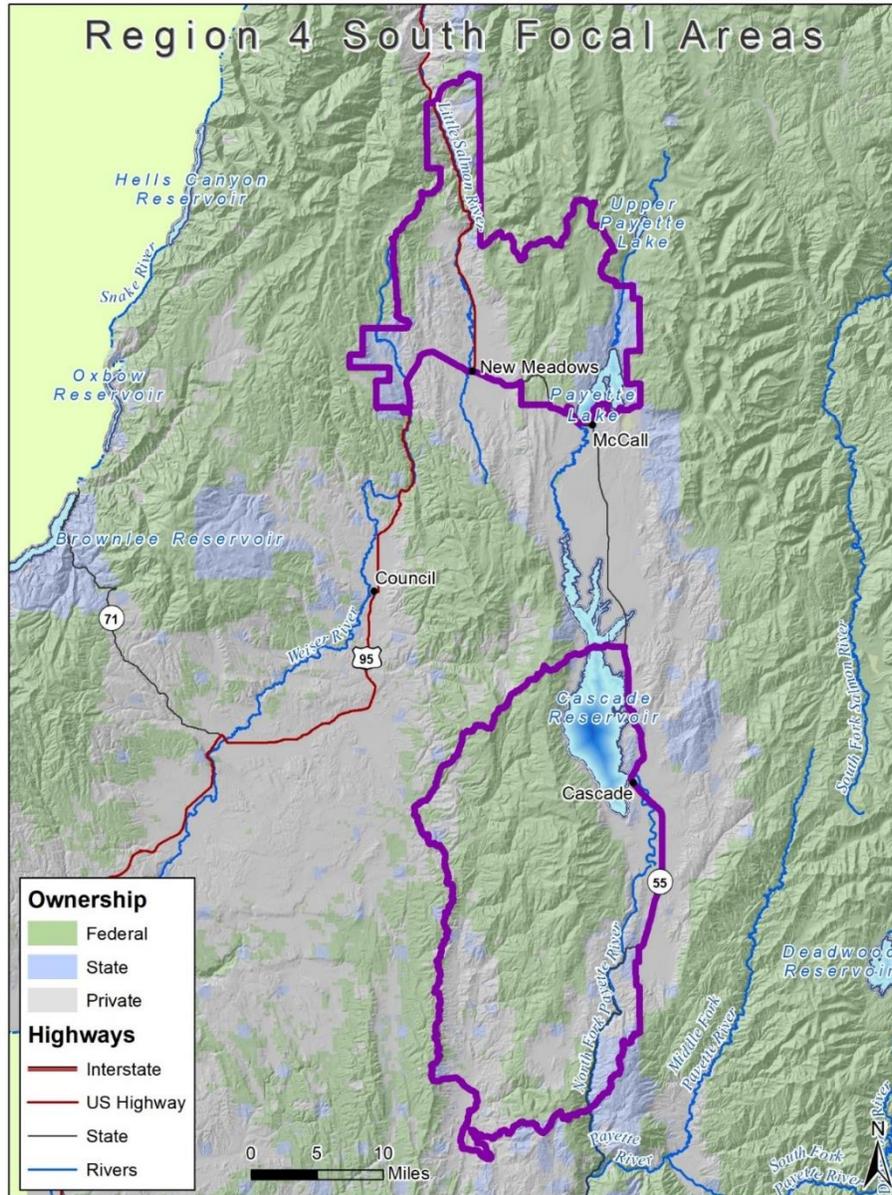


Idaho Shared Stewardship Focal Areas

After the two larger SSPLs were geospatially defined, a series of meetings transpired to help define smaller, more focused Shared Stewardship Focal Areas where cross-boundary work would initially be planned and implemented. These meetings first took place in the north Idaho SSPL, with land managers and fire-management officers with the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) meeting with bureau chiefs, operations chiefs, and program managers from the IDL as well as NRCS District Conservationists in the northern panhandle region—to focus on areas of forestland where forest-management and fuels-reduction treatments on federal, state and private lands were planned in the near future, and where these types of treatments had recently occurred and could be expanded on to create a more meaningful landscape-level effect of fire-risk mitigation. Fire-management personnel revealed where forest conditions could most benefit from treatments and where cross-boundary fuel-break treatments were already occurring. These discussions led to the decision to initiate the first “focal area” in north Idaho in Southwest Bonner County, adjacent to the planned Scattered Lands projects in the Sandpoint Ranger District of the IPNF.



Similar meetings were then initiated with the Payette and Boise National Forest managers and District Rangers, along with IDL, to define smaller, focused focal areas within the southern Idaho Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape. Inter-agency collaboration yielded two Shared Stewardship Focal Areas within the larger south Idaho SSPL.



Idaho Shared Stewardship Action Plan

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the USFS are collaborating with willing private landowners to define and implement cross-boundary projects. Projects focus on the use of prescribed fire, fuel reduction, harvesting and thinning treatments. These methods are part of a holistic approach to reduce threats of wildfires and improve the health of Idaho's forests, rangelands and watersheds.

On October 3, 2019, Governor Little appointed a 19-member Shared Stewardship Advisory Group. The role and functions of the committee include:

- Identify process, policy, funding, and capacity barriers that impede implementation of Shared Stewardship in Idaho;
- Problem-solve and find creative solutions to the challenges identified;
- Act as a voice for various interests not on the Advisory Group;
- Develop metrics of success and a common set of Shared Stewardship principles; and
- Communicate and advocate for Shared Stewardship in coordination with the IDL and Forest Service to various local, state, regional and national groups.

Key Concepts of this action plan include interagency agreements that Shared Stewardship efforts will involve nimble and durable processes and relationships—and the plan represents a long-term proposition and investment. In alignment with the prioritized strategic work done in the Forest Action Plan Priority Landscape Areas (PLAs), Idaho's Shared Stewardship action plan solidifies interagency efforts to prioritize work where risks and benefits are greatest, and coordinated work is accomplished to achieve real, measurable outputs and outcomes.

Also intersecting with Idaho's Forest Action Plan strategies, and ensuring integration with the USFS's out-year planning processes, part of the overall goals of this Shared Stewardship action plan are to:

- Ensure Landscape Scale Restoration and Western States Fire Manager grant applications are consistent with Shared Stewardship priorities;
- Ensure Idaho's Forest Stewardship Program areas are aligned with Shared Stewardship priority landscapes;
- Leverage existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with stakeholders that have a shared interest in improving forest conditions; and
- Improve consistency between the USFS Northern and Intermountain Regions in Idaho, including the development of timber and vegetation management plans.

Idaho Shared Stewardship Cross-Boundary Projects

Strategic planning and implementation of cross-boundary projects within these three Shared Stewardship Focal Areas is starting in 2020, working towards the goals developed from multiple meetings consisting of “on-the-ground” land managers including the Idaho Department of Lands operational foresters, Good Neighbor foresters, and landowner-assistance foresters, as well as NRCS District Conservationists, county cooperators, USFS Ranger District staff, and county wildfire planning groups.

Appendix J – Forest Stewardship Focal Area Designation Process

During federal fiscal year 2020 there was a change in policy as it relates to the delivery of the Forest Stewardship Program requiring the designation of specific focal areas where services will be provided. To address this change, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) used the following process to delineate private forest acres and potential forested acreage lands within Idaho where Forest Stewardship Program services will be delivered to non-industrial private landowners.

Private Forested Lands

To identify Forested Lands in Idaho, the IDL used the Landfire vegetation re-gap raster*. The vegetative type was consolidated to 'forest', 'brush', 'grass' and 'rock/barren/water'. The combinations of these types were further defined as 'forest-forest', 'forest-brush', 'forest-grass', 'brush-brush', 'brush-grass' and 'grass-grass'. All of the combinations that included forest were then used to identify forested areas within Idaho. The raster was then converted into a polygon using ESRI's Raster to Polygon tool in ArcMap. Areas classified as "forest" were then selected and exported as a Forested Lands polygon shapefile showing forested areas of Idaho.

To identify Private Lands within Idaho, the IDL used their Restricted Ownership** layer. All areas classified as Private, which included private landowner, industrial timber (Bennett, Hancock, Inland Empire Paper, Kroetch, Molpus, Potlatch, PRLCo, Riley Creek, and Stimson), and Indian Reservation, were selected and exported as a new Private Lands shapefile.

The Dissolve tool in ESRI ArcMap was used to reduce the Forested Lands and the Private Lands shapefiles to a single polygon each. The Clip tool was then used to clip out the footprint of the Private Lands shapefile from the Forested Lands shapefile, resulting in a Private Forested Lands shapefile. From this, the IDL was able to identify that there are 4,575,264 acres of private forested land in Idaho.

Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands

By practice in Idaho the Forest Stewardship Programs are used to assist non-industrial private forest owners. To identify the Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands in Idaho, the IDL used a similar methodology to the process described above for identifying Private Forested Lands. The same Forested Lands polygon was used for this analysis, but to identify Non-Industrial Private Lands, only areas classified as private landowner (no industrial timber organization without a mill or Indian Reservation) were selected and exported from the IDL's Restricted Ownership layer. The resulting shapefile, Non-Industrial Private Lands, was also dissolved into a single polygon, then intersected with the Forested Lands shapefile using the Clip tool to create a Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands layer. From this, the IDL was able to identify that there are 3,307,472 acres of non-industrial private forest lands within Idaho that Forest Stewardship Program services could be applied on.

* LANDFIRE, 2016, Existing Vegetation Type Layer, LANDFIRE 2.0.0, U.S. Department of Interior, Geological Survey. Accessed 6 December 2017 at <http://landfire.cr.usgs.gov/viewer/>.

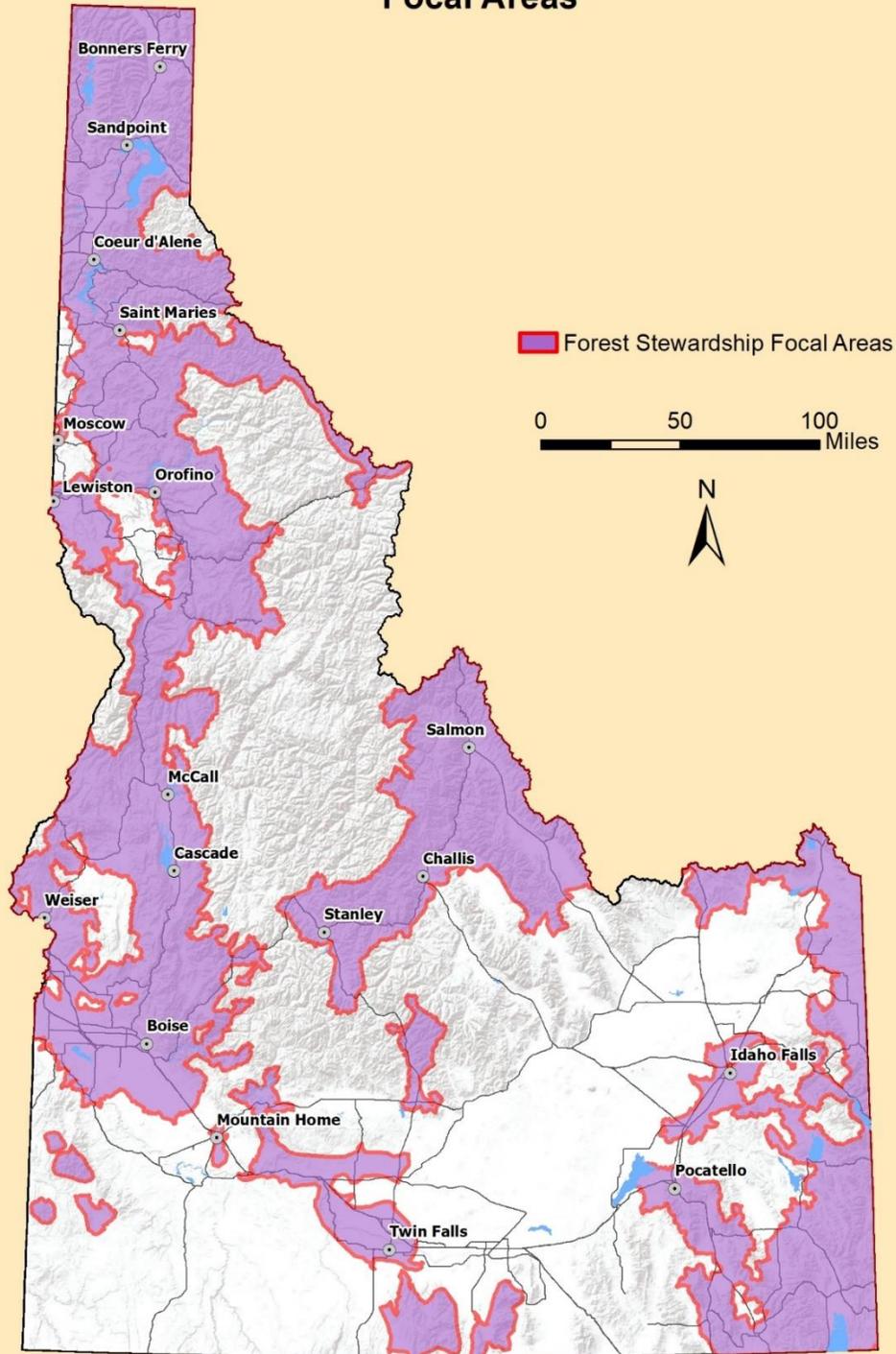
** Technical Services Staff, 2018, Restricted Ownership, Idaho Department of Lands. Accessed 30 January 2020 on J: drive server.

Identification of Stewardship Focal Areas

With emphasis put on the delivery of programs administered by the IDL within the Forest Action Plan designated Priority Lands Areas (PLAs) it was determined that using these same PLA designations would be appropriate to use as the Stewardship Focal Areas. To ensure that no more than 50% of non-industrial private forest lands would be included as provided in guidance from the USDA Forest Service, the Forest Action Plan PLAs were used to clip the Non-Industrial Private Forest Lands layer which allowed the IDL to count the acres within the PLAs of non-industrial private forest lands. 2,153,640 acres of non-industrial private forested lands were identified or 47.07% of the 4,575,264 acres of private forested lands in Idaho.

Using the PLA designations also captures those lands that have been converted to other uses but still have potential to be forested, thus allowing Forest Stewardship Program services to be delivered to landowners desiring to re-establish or conduct afforestation management on their ownership.

Idaho 2020 Forest Stewardship Program Focal Areas



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